Minutes of the

Meeting of the Executive Commitee

of the

World Council of Churches

13-16 September 2005

Meeting held at the

Ecumenical Institute Bossey, Switzerland

These minutes have no official status until received, amended as necessary and approved by the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The official proceedings of the Executive Committee consist of a documented record of decisions taken by the Committee along with the texts of documents acted upon. The introductions to agenda items and summaries of presentations and discussions are prepared by the minute-taker for background information only, and should not be cited as part of the official proceedings of the meeting nor as such attributed to the speakers' names.

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1. OPENING ACTIONS

1.1 Worship

Opening worship took place in the Chapel of the Ecumenical Institute. The readings were Acts 10: 9-35 and Matt. 15: 21-28 and the preacher was Fr Ioan Sauca, Director of the Ecumenical Institute. He expressed his pleasure that it had been decided to hold the last full meeting of the Executive Committee before the Assembly at Bossey.

On subsequent mornings, worship also took place in the Chapel:

14 September	Readings: Ezekiel 47: 1-12 and John 4: 7-15 Preacher: Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza
15 September	Readings: 2 Corinthians 3: 18 and Luke 13: 20-21 Preacher: Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
16 September	Reading: Mark 4: 26-29 Preacher: Archbishop Mar Cyril Aphrem Karim

1.2 Call to Order and Welcome

The Moderator, His Holiness Aram I, called the meeting to order at 9.30am. He welcomed committee members to their 'second home' for this the last full meeting before the Ninth Assembly. The focus of the present meeting would be preparations for that Assembly, although some decisions still remaining to be taken after the present meeting would be dealt with by the Officers at their December 2005 meeting. He thanked Fr Ioan Sauca for his meditation, and commended him and his staff for the good work being done at Bossey.

1.3 Roll Call

The General Secretary added his welcome to the Moderator's and called the roll. There would be some late arrivals. Apologies for absence had been received from Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev, for whom Fr Mikhail Gundyaev was appointed substitute, Ms Jana Krajcirikova, Rev. Septemmy E. Lakawa,

and Rev. Dr Ilaitia Sevati Tuwere, for whom Mr John Doom was appointed substitute.

The General Secretary also welcomed as guests representatives of new member churches, who were present at this session as part of their induction programme introducing them to the WCC's work: Rev. Milton Mejía, of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, and Bishop Juan Antonio Vera Méndez and Dr Victor R. Ortiz, both of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. They each briefly introduced themselves to the Executive Committee. Each of the two churches was the first church in its country to become a member of the WCC.

1.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Geneva on 14 February 2005 had been previously circulated and were **approved.**

1.5 Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

The General Secretary presented a proposed agenda and timetable. The meeting would finish at lunch on Friday 16 September, as some members had to leave that afternoon. The intention was that a quorum be maintained to the end of the meeting for the reception of reports.

The Executive Committee **approved** the agenda and timetable.

1.6 Appointment of Sub-Committees

It was agreed that, in view of the Latin American focus of the Assembly, on this occasion Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza should serve on the Public Issues Committee. The Executive Committee **approved** the membership of the sub-committees (see Appendix II).

1.7 Remarks from the Members

Dr Marion Best, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited members to reflect for a moment on what they wished to share with the whole committee. There followed a rich and varied sharing of news from around the world. Specific mention was made (inter alia) of the death of Brother Roger, founder of the Taizé Community, the election of Pope Benedict XVI and his visit to Germany, and the devastating floods in the south of the United States following hurricane Katrina.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited the General Secretary to give his report.

The General Secretary noted that this was his fourth report to the Executive Committee. In his first two reports, he had focussed on his visits to regions and churches and his listening to their concerns. His third report had been a brief introduction to his report to the Central Committee immediately following. In this present report he would review visits he had made, work that would go to the Assembly, possible work after the Assembly, and recent emerging issues.

VISITS

He had visited Rome and the Vatican, Russia and the Caribbean. The Caribbean visit was the latest of his visits to the regions. With the planned visit to the Middle East in the coming November he would have completed his planned eight visits to the regions before the Assembly.

In **Rome**, he had visited WCC member churches. Being minority churches, they had felt affirmed and empowered by the visit from the WCC General Secretary. Of particular note was the growing presence in Italy of migrant

churches of African origin. They were even beginning to outnumber the indigenous Italian Protestant churches.

On his visit to **the Vatican** he had been the guest of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, with which he had spent much time. The highlight of the visit had been his audience with Pope Benedict XVI. The Pope had received him graciously and had reiterated that the commitment of the Roman Catholic Church to the ecumenical movement was irreversible. The Pope had insisted on the need to demonstrate (unspecified) concrete steps on the way to visible unity. At a press conference the General Secretary had been asked whom the WCC was dealing with: Cardinal Ratzinger or Pope Benedict XVI? The General Secretary had been able to respond that the WCC was now dealing with Pope Benedict XVI.

The visit to the **Russian Orthodox Church** had been encouraging. A new depth of relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church had been achieved and they were sending a full delegation to the Assembly. Archbishop Nifon had accompanied him on his visit, including a visit to the Patriarch Alexy II. The Patriarch had mentioned the WCC's authentic Christian solidarity with the Russian Orthodox Church during the communist period and stressed their continuing commitment to the WCC. The Special Commission and the reconfiguration process were viewed as positive developments.

The visit to **the Caribbean** and to the Caribbean Council of Churches had included two particular visits: to Cuba and to Haiti.

In **Cuba**, the churches, aware that political change would come sooner or later, were actively considering how they should prepare for that transition. He had been present at well-attended Presbyterian and Methodist worship services and had visited the Matanzas Seminary. On his visit to President Fidel Castro he had raised issues that the churches had requested, particularly a plea that the churches, which are growing, needed permission to build new churches and extend existing churches. Dr Ofelia Ortega, in a visit to Geneva shortly afterwards, had informed him that the Cuban government had responded positively to this request for permission for new building work.

The situation in **Haiti** was one of extreme poverty and senseless violence. His host had been the Federation of Protestant Churches and he had also had an opportunity to meet Pentecostals. The churches needed ecumenical accompaniment. He also had had meetings with the Interim President and the head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission. Even the UN was finding the situation difficult. A plea had been made for the WCC to intervene in an attempt to resolve the difficulties arising out of the continuing alleged influence of former president Aristide being exercised from South Africa where he is in exile.

WORK LEADING UP TO AND CONTINUING AFTER THE ASSEMBLY

These matters would be considered elsewhere during the present meeting, in Programme Highlights and in the From Harare to Porto Alegre Report.

A session on **Human Sexuality** had been included in the programme of the last Central Committee meeting, at which the summing up by Fr Kishkovsky had been very helpful. It would be a subject of one of the Ecumenical Conversations at Porto Alegre.

In preparation for the **Global Christian Forum**, two more regional consultations (Europe and Latin America) were due to take place. The Executive Committee were being asked how to report on it to the Assembly and to continue the WCC's financial support.

The Decade to Overcome Violence, the AGAPE process and the reconfiguration process were all continuing areas of work.

The **Proposed Ecumenical Alliance for Development (PEAD)** was the latest development in enhancing cooperation in the field of diakonia and development (Minutes, February 2005, pp. 9-11). Fr Kishkovsky was a member of its steering group and it would probably be launched in mid-2006. Meanwhile it should be noted that: the WCC would convene and moderate its

governing body for an interim period; the WCC would provide the global platform for analysis, reflection and strategizing on the issues; and it would be housed in the Ecumenical Centre. The task of the Executive Committee at the present meeting was to note and affirm the process and pass it on to the successor Executive Committee.

EMERGING ISSUES

Regarding **Hurricane Katrina**, it had demonstrated how compassion and solidarity were to be found in the hearts of many worldwide. Even poor countries had offered support. It had also raised pertinent questions. The USA would have to consider again its attitude to global warming. Even the one superpower had its limits. We would need to accompany the US churches as they engaged in this reflection.

It was now four years since 9/11 and what we were seeing was that the USA and the coalition were fighting the war that the terrorists wanted to spur them into fighting. The 'war against terror' was also demonstrating the limits to US power.

In recent weeks he had had approaches from two quarters, one an individual and one a government. Each had said that what was needed was a new dynamic approach to addressing global issues. There is an ethical and spiritual dimension to be considered as we address them. Each had felt that the WCC had the ability and the credibility to engage in such a discussion. That would be a future task for the Council.

The General Secretary concluded by thanking the members of the Executive Committee for their attention.

Mrs Justice Adinyira, moderating, invited responses to the General Secretary's report.

Fr Mikhail Gundyaev remarked that the visit of the General Secretary to the Russian Orthodox Church had been a major ecumenical event for that church.

Archbishop Nifon agreed. He emphasized that the visible unity of the church had been a goal of the WCC from the beginning and still was. Cooperation in diaconal work was good and was to be encouraged, but we needed to go deeper and ask why progress towards unity was so slow. We could not just leave unity to the end time. He was pleased that a full delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church was going to the Assembly.

Bishop Koppe, referring to the Pope's visit to Germany, said that it was clear from it that there was a new interest in the Catholic Church for relations with the Orthodox churches. The Pope's meeting with Protestant leaders had been with individuals invited personally, not leaders appointed at the request of the Catholic Church by the German churches themselves. He regretted that the General Secretary's visit to Cuba had not been used as an opportunity to raise the question of human rights with the Cuban authorities, as a follow-up to the letter sent by Konrad Raiser in 2003.

Dean Gadegaard, while pleased that the Russian Orthodox Church would be fully represented at the Assembly, noted that no Russian Orthodox delegate was actually resident in Russia. Was the Russian Orthodox Church ready to resume its involvement with the WCC at the same level as it had done in the past? He noted the new interest by the Catholic Church in the Orthodox world, but remarked that we needed to show visible signs now of our eschatological unity.

Fr Kishkovsky, continuing the discussion, noted that there had been real theological achievements in the area of unity, not only between Orthodox and Protestants, but also between Protestants. However, as some church-dividing issues were overcome, other new church-dividing issues arose. Many Protestants were suffering from divisions within their own churches. Unity was an issue for all Christians, not simply an issue between churches. We

needed to maintain what had been achieved and struggle with the new divisions.

Fr George was glad that there seemed to be a difference in Pope Benedict XVI from Cardinal Ratzinger. We needed to discuss what new proposals we could put to the Catholic Church. We should not be resigned in face of difficulties nor view unity as simply an eschatological event. The larger churches needed to go beyond their institutional self-sufficiency.

Bishop McKinley Young pleaded that efforts towards reconciliation and peace in Haiti should continue. He believed that, in Cuba, President Castro would welcome a return of the churches to visible involvement in national life.

His Holiness Aram I was grateful that the General Secretary's report had been so forward-looking. His visits should not be, nor were, mere protocol visits, but were occasions from which lessons could be learned. Regarding the Catholic Church's irreversible ecumenical commitment, we needed to work out the implications of this positive stance. The 40th anniversary of the Joint Working Group, to be celebrated in November, would present an opportunity to be seized to take forward our relationship with the Catholic Church. Other issues – inter-religious dialogue, the vulnerability and limits of power, and that expectation from civil society for moral guidance from the WCC – were all pointers to future work for the Council.

Mrs Justice Adinyira, presiding, invited the General Secretary to respond to the discussion.

The General Secretary responded:

(to Dean Gadegaard) Yes, the Russian Orthodox Church was prepared to be more deeply involved in the WCC. There had been a change in atmosphere since the last visit to the Russian Orthodox Church. There were areas of opposition to the WCC within the church, but it was clear that the church's

leadership was positive about the ecumenical movement, which had largely been the fruit of the work of the Special Commission.

(to Fr George) In the conversation with Pope Benedict XVI, mention had been made of the Joint Working Group and of a number of issues still to be worked on, such as the eucharist, ministry and ecclesiology.

(to Bishop Koppe) Regarding human rights in Cuba, he stressed that it was only possible to raise such issues in a way that empowered the churches. It was not possible for the WCC to raise the issue unilaterally.

(to HH Aram I) The issue of power – its limits and vulnerability – was very important. It was clear that we needed to consider how we should meet the expectations of civil society and other faith communities.

Mrs Justice Adinyira thanked the General Secretary for his report and his responses.

3. PRELIMINARY FINANCE REPORT

Dr Marion Best, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited Dean Gadegaard to give the preliminary Finance Report.

Dean Gadegaard presented the Financial Report 2004 and a Finance Overview of the present situation. The main agenda items for the Finance Sub-Committee would be to receive and approve the Finance Report 2004 and examine the finances for the current year to end July 2005. As regards the Finance Report 2004, the financial statements had been audited and the Officers had approved the publication of the Financial Report 2004 at their June meeting. It had been a financially satisfactory year, with an overall surplus on the year of CHF 622,000. The General Reserves had been increased by CHF 1.6 million.

Concerning the Finance Overview, results to end July 2005 showed that we were on target with income slightly above target and expenditure lower than budgeted. Bossey had increased its income.

Regarding the Balance Sheet, it was gratifying that net assets (excluding land and buildings) were now CHF 8.5 million, compared with two and a half years previously, when the only assets had been land and buildings.

As for the 2006 Framework and Budget, the year 2006 would be problematic as it was not yet known what would happen to programmes after the Assembly. The present Draft Budget did not have as large a surplus as that looked for at the Central Committee in February 2005 (CHF 34.66 million compared with CHF 35.72 million). There had been no substantial change to the Assembly Budget.

Other Finance Sub-Committee agenda topics were: management issues arising from the 2004 audit; the status on capital expenditure plans for building and equipment; the meeting with members of the Pension Fund Board; and the Assembly Finance Committee agenda.

Dr Best thanked Dean Gadegaard for his presentation.

4. PROGRAMME REPORT

Dr Marion Best, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited Ms Geneviève Jacques to give the Report on Programme Highlights since the Central Committee meeting February 2005.

Ms Jacques, introducing a written report, said that she was not highlighting activities, but rather pinpointing issues requiring the attention of the Executive Committee.

The report **'From Harare to Porto Alegre'**, giving an account of work done within the present programme framework, had been finalized, taking into account the comments made at the previous Central Committee meeting.

Current work was focussed on preparing for the Assembly and the immediate post-Assembly period. The annual meeting with ecumenical funding partners at the WCC Round Table in April 2005 had assured them that an intensive process of consultation with churches, partners and networks on the key issues determined by the Assembly would take place immediately after the Assembly. The programmatic proposals arising from the Assembly decisions would be presented to the Executive Committee in May 2006 and to the Central Committee in September 2006.

Two important international events had taken place since the last Central Committee meeting.

The Conference on World Mission and Evangelism had taken place in Athens, 9-16 May, under the theme 'Come, Holy Spirit, Heal and Reconcile: called in Christ to be Reconciling and Healing Communities'. The Conference had been noteworthy in two respects. It was the first time that such a conference had taken place in a predominantly Orthodox context, and also the first time that a significant number of fully participating delegates had attended from the Catholic Church and Pentecostal and Evangelical communities.

The CWME Commission meeting after the conference had made recommendations for post-Assembly CWME programmatic priorities. Concerning celebrations in 2010 to mark the centenary of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference in 1910, a co-ordinating Towards 2010 International Council with wide representation would be formed in January 2006.

The international conference on 'A Critical Moment in Inter-Religious Dialogue' had taken place, 7-9 June at the Ecumenical Centre, under the leadership of the WCC Moderator and General Secretary, with participation

from Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, indigenous religions, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Yoruba and Zoroastrians. As a result, great expectations had been raised concerning follow-up by the WCC. A 'pedagogical publication' would be produced, insights from the conference would be incorporated into the Assembly programme, and (in the long term) strategic reflection on future WCC inter-religious work would be led post-Assembly by the General Secretary.

The three commissions on Diakonia and Development; on Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation; and on International Affairs had held concurrent meetings at Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland, 15-19 June. They had made various recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee. More particularly, the JPIC Commission had now revised the AGAPE (Alternative Globalization Addressing Peoples and Earth) Call to Action for use at the Assembly Economic Justice Plenary and was now presenting it to the Executive Committee for approval.

The Faith and Order Standing Commission had met at Aghios Nikolaos, Crete, 14-21 June. It had made a final revision of the 'Statement on Ecclesiology' and was now presenting it to the Executive Committee for approval and submission to the Assembly for adoption. It was requesting that the study document 'The Nature and Mission of the Church' be sent to the churches before the Assembly for study and comment. It had completed the nomination process for the new Standing Commission and was proposing a slate of thirty names for the new Standing Commission to be elected by the new Central Committee at its meeting immediately following the Assembly.

Ecumenical News International Progress Report. The Executive Committee meeting in August 2004 had requested (Minutes, p. 86) that the WCC's level of involvement with ENI be assessed at this present meeting in the light of ENI's mandate and the renewed strategy and revised business plan. Since then, in November 2004, following its tenth anniversary, ENI had organized a symposium to explore the future of ecumenical newsgathering and dissemination. ENI staff and governing body members had worked carefully to reduce costs, increase subscriptions and develop other services, and to seek

new and creative approaches to editorial content and strategic alliances with other partners. A balanced budget and a revised business plan will be presented to the ENI Executive Committee later this year. The progress made was encouraging, and the WCC Executive Committee was being asked to maintain the WCC's financial commitment to ENI in 2006 at the same level as in 2005.

As for the **Ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence**, a mid-term Statement had been prepared for approval by this Executive Committee meeting and for presentation to the Assembly, accompanied by a background document.

Dr Best, moderating, noting that the proposed actions would be passed to the Programme Sub-Committee for action, asked if there were any comments at this stage.

Bishop Koppe asked for clarification on the nominating process for the new Faith and Order Standing Commission.

Dr Best, responding, stated that the churches had been invited to nominate possible members in March. From those names the Standing Commission had drawn up the slate of thirty names for approval by the Central Committee meeting immediately after the Assembly.

Dean Gadegaard, referring to ENI, on whose Executive Committee he served as WCC representative, agreed that a full review of ENI, as requested by the August 2004 Executive Committee meeting, was not appropriate at this stage. Meanwhile, there had been improvements, such as effective approaches to the secular media. He stressed, however, that the work of ENI should be reviewed by the Executive Committee at its first, or at the very latest its second, meeting in 2006.

There were various comments on the **World Mission Conference and the proposed conference at Edinburgh in 2010** marking the centenary of the 1910 World Missionary Conference.

Dr Kirkpatrick enquired whether the 2010 event would be a sort of world mission conference.

Ms Njobvu felt that the World Mission Conference had not sufficiently challenged the churches in Europe to go out in mission. She referred to the low attendance at a Reformed church in Switzerland that she had attended the previous Sunday.

Bishop Koppe remarked that the media had not noticeably taken up the World Mission Conference.

Bishop Mar Theophilus felt that the World Mission Conference had not sufficiently examined inter-faith issues.

Rev. Dr Carlos Ham, staff, responding, stated that the WCC recognized the importance of the 2010 Edinburgh event and had been invited to participate in the preparations for it. There was a hope that a proposal for synchronizing a CWME conference with that celebration could be brought to the Executive Committee in 2006. A CWME core group, to maintain continuity until the appointment of the new Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, would, if appointed, assist WCC's continuing participation in the preparatory process. In response to comments made the next world mission conference would give a prominent place to evangelism.

Ms Beate Fagerli, staff, also responding, stated that it had been a conscious decision to make the World Mission Conference a different sort of conference. The conference itself had been designed as part of an ongoing process – study before and continuing study after. As regards the media, some had been interested – 43 references had been noted in the German media, for example. Given the considerable participation by Pentecostals and Evangelicals, it had been felt not to be appropriate to devote attention to inter-faith issues.

Most comments, however, related to the **Statement on Ecclesiology:**

Dr Kirkpatrick was aware of the importance of the Statement in our conversations with the Catholic Church, particularly after the publication of Dominus Iesus. A new springboard for dialogue was required.

Fr Gundyaev asked if the text before the committee was in its final form.

HH Aram I had three comments: the examination of baptism in section 3.1 came too late in the document – it should come earlier; the linkage between dialogue and mission in section 4.2 was inadequate; and section 5.1 should make reference to the fellowship existing between the churches.

Fr Kishkovsky agreed that the Statement was not perfect, but that it was not the task of the Executive Committee to edit it – indeed they might not improve it! However, thought needed to be given on how it was to be presented to the Assembly.

Archbishop Nifon also agreed that it was impossible to have a document completely satisfactory to all, but it had been discussed in Orthodox circles. It was, however, the best we could do, and it was a document of some substance. The question to be discussed now was what the Assembly should be invited to do with it – approve, receive, or some other action.

Dean Gadegaard agreed that we must recognize that we actually can say something on ecclesiology together. We had managed to produce this formulation on ecclesiology. The Assembly should be given the opportunity to adopt it formally.

Bishop McKinley Young was grateful for the Statement and saw in it a good working document, representing progress since the Harare Assembly.

Rev. Dr Thomas Best, Faith and Order Director, responding, said that the Statement before them was in its final form. It belonged to the Executive Committee to discuss, not its contents, but the process of its presentation to the Assembly. The Catholic Church had been fully involved in its production,

and, if accepted, it could provide a platform for dialogue with the Catholic Church.

The General Secretary, also responding, observed that the Statement was the fruit of a three year long process: the churches had had the opportunity to comment on it; the Faith and Order Standing and Plenary Commissions had examined and approved it; the Central Committee had made further comments on it, and passed it back to the Faith and Order Standing Commission for final revision at its meeting in June 2005. It was being presented to the present meeting of the Executive Committee for submission to the Assembly. It was not the task of the Executive Committee to make substantive changes to it.

It fell to the Assembly to decide what to do with it: receive, commend to the churches, etc.. The Catholic Church had participated in its production through its membership of the Faith and Order Commission, but it had not been involved in its production as a church. It would be the basis for really serious discussion in the future.

Dr Best, moderating, then invited Dr Aruna Gnanadason to introduce the **AGAPE (Alternative to Globalization Addressing People and Earth) Call**, produced by the Justice, Peace and Creation team.

Dr Gnanadason stressed that the AGAPE Call, intended for the Assembly plenary on Economic Justice, was not a statement, but a call, cast in liturgical form. It was accompanied by a background document, in the hands of the Executive Committee, intended to stimulate discussion.

Dr Best invited comments.

There was general appreciation of the Call, but, in the light of an assurance that the text could be changed, some comments were made.

Concerning the Trinitarian language, concern was expressed that traditional language had studiously been avoided. Trinity did not only describe divine

activity (the 'economic' Trinity) but also the divine nature (the 'essential' Trinity). This should be reflected in the text.

The statement 'A world without poverty is not only possible…' was also called in question. While in following the Gospel we were against oppression and on the side of the oppressed, it could be argued (cf Matt. 26:11) that a world without poverty is an eschatological reality.

A further concern was the target audience. The target of the Call and the Background Document was an adult audience. Youth and children should also be targeted.

Dr Gnanadason gave assurance that these concerns would be considered by the Programme Sub-Committee. Concerning widening the target audience, that would be a task for after the Assembly. All AGAPE work was being done collectively – for example, with the LWF and the WARC.

Ms Jacques then presented a mid-term report on the **Ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence** and a document for presentation to the Assembly describing its past achievements and future expectations.

Ms Jacques presented two further reports for presentation to the Assembly: Report on the Global Christian Forum, and Report of the Joint Consultative Group WCC-Pentecostals, 2000-05.

Mr Georges Lemopoulos further explained that each of these two parallel processes had been mandated by the Harare Assembly and thus these reports were reports to the Assembly. In its discussion of them, the Executive Committee should concentrate on their recommendations for future work.

There was some discussion.

Both processes had aimed at widening the ecumenical fellowship, and had been perceived by some as at the expense of deepening existing fellowship.

Both the Moderator and the General Secretary stressed that deepening and widening the fellowship were not alternatives but went together.

Concern was expressed that the list of main contributors to the Global Christian Forum process was incomplete: mention should also be made of contributions by Fuller Seminary and the Korean Pentecostal Churches. Appreciation was expressed of the work of Mr Hubert van Beek in connection with the Global Christian Forum, particularly his presentation on it in the United States.

All the above matters were passed to the Programme Sub-Committee for further consideration and possible recommendations.

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira, Vice-Moderator, presiding, welcomed Mr Peter Weiderud, CCIA Director, to the meeting. The Moderator, on behalf of the Executive Committee, congratulated Mr Weiderud on his marriage to Ms Salpy Eskidjian in July.

Mr Weiderud thanked them for their welcome and congratulations and gave a report on Public Issues.

Reform of the United Nations. The following day the Summit on UN Reform would be bringing Heads of State and Heads of Government from all parts of the world to New York. While all UN member states agreed on the need for reform, there were disagreements as to how, and the outcome of the meeting was uncertain. In April the WCC General Secretary had written to the UN Secretary General commenting on the reform proposals, and the previous week a further letter had been sent to the leaders of the G8 and G77 nations focussing on nine issues of particular concern to the WCC.

Statements by the WCC Assembly. The CCIA was proposing the following actions (minutes or statements) to be taken by the Assembly:

- on UN Reform, the content to be based on the previously mentioned letters, but depending on the Summit outcome
- on Latin America, the location of the Assembly making this a timely moment
- on the Responsibility to Protect, thus closing a process lasting over five years
- on Nuclear Weapons, building on the strong concern in member churches that nuclear disarmament should again be on the agenda.

Follow-up to past actions

The Statement on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (Executive Committee Minutes, February 2004, pp. 31-35) had been followed up by a delegation to the NNPT Review Conference in May 2005, a delegation, led by Archbishop Nifon, to non-nuclear NATO members, and by the beginning of a dialogue with Muslim leaders on a common understanding on nuclear weapons.

The Minute on Zimbabwe (Executive Committee Minutes, August 2004, pp. 57-60) would shortly be followed up by the sending of an ecumenical team to express solidarity and to listen to the views of the churches and other civil society organizations.

The Minute on Certain Economic Measures for Peace in Israel/Palestine (Central Committee Minutes, February 2005, pp. 44ff) had attracted wide attention and much criticism. The Anglican, Reformed and Lutheran communions had taken various decisions, from investment in rehabilitation and development in Palestine to divestment from activities linked to the occupation. The negative reactions pointed to the need for skilled communication as an important part of policy-making.

Proposed actions for the present meeting

In light of the proposed actions for the Assembly, CCIA was proposing only two statements for adoption by the present meeting: a Statement on Haiti and a

Statement on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Statement on Haiti was to be seen as a follow-up to the recent visit by the General Secretary. The Statement on Small Arms and Light Weapons would be the first statement by a WCC governing body on the issue. It would provide a basis for WCC work before and during the Second UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects in July 2006.

Mrs Justice Adinyira invited comments on Mr Weiderud's report.

Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza spoke of the coming referendum on small arms in Brazil. There were 34,000 murders annually in Brazil because of the widespread possession of small arms in the population. The National Council of Christian Churches in Brazil (CONIC) was encouraging churches to open their doors for the collection of small arms.

Dr Maake Masango, speaking of the situation in South Africa, said that the licensing of small arms to individuals beyond the police and armed services had recently been discontinued. Churches in South Africa, too, had been collecting guns.

Archbishop Nifon wondered if a statement on terrorism by the Assembly might be appropriate.

Mrs Justice Adinyira asked when the visit to Zimbabwe was taking place.

Responses

The General Secretary was grateful for Ms Correa de Souza's comments. The action she had mentioned could be referred to in the Statement on Small Arms. In the Assembly, probably in the Plenary on Overcoming Violence, there would be a public action of crushing small arms.

Mr Weiderud responded to various points. The visit to Zimbabwe would take place at the end of September. 'Responsibility to Protect' represented a development in language. It had originally been formulated as 'obligation to

intervene'. Now the emphasis was not only on intervention but also on prevention. Terrorism had been carefully discussed and they were moving towards a definition, but they were not yet ready with a firm proposal. However, if the Assembly requested an action on terrorism, they would be prepared. An Assembly minute on nuclear weapons would be a restatement of existing WCC policy, but it would help the churches to raise awareness. He was grateful for the comments on small arms, and invited Mr Jonathan Frerichs to respond further.

Mr Frerichs gave further information on the referendum in Brazil on 23 October on banning the civilian possession of firearms. At a meeting of the biennial UN Small Arms Control Monitoring Conference, where the WCC-related Network on Small Arms had been present as a caucus, the Brazilian head of police had requested assistance from the world's churches in campaigning for the ban. In response, CONIC was being assisted in its campaign in favour of the ban and two bishops were going to Brazil to increase awareness. The issue would thus be coming to the Assembly with some momentum.

Mrs Justice Adinyira thanked Mr Weiderud for his report and invited members to make any further comments direct to the Public Issues Sub-Committee.

6. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS, CONSTITUTION AND RULES, AND NOMINATIONS TO CONSULTATIVE BODIES

6.1 Member churches and specialized ministries

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited Mr Georges Lemopoulos to present the report on Membership Matters.

Mr Lemopoulos presented the report on Membership Matters to be referred to the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee.

The Lao Evangelical Church had presented its application for membership in 2003 following the General Secretary's visit to Laos. It was the first church in the region to make application, the application process had been completed and it could now be considered by the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Central Committee in September 2006.

There were now four **pending applications** and following the decision by the Central Committee in February (Minutes, pp. 21), they had each been invited to send an observer to the Assembly.

In accordance with new Rule XVII, **eighteen ecumenical partners** had applied to join in working partnership with the WCC.

Concerning the continuation of the membership of the **Kimbanguist Church** (Executive Committee Minutes, August 2004, pp. 65-67), for which a decision was required at the present meeting, there had been significant developments. An ecumenical delegation, representing the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Organization of African Instituted Churches and the WCC, had visited the church 21-22 July 2005. A full report had been sent by Rev. Dr Mvume Dandala, AACC General Secretary, which was before the committee. In an accompanying letter, he had stated that the AACC's position was that the Kimbanguist Church would remain an AACC member and expressed the hope that the WCC's position would be the same.

Discussion

HH Aram I enquired concerning the church affiliation of the Orthodox member of the three-member delegation visiting the Lao Evangelical Church. He also hoped that, if the Kimbanguist Church, by decision of the present meeting, remained a member, the matter would not come to the Assembly.

Rev. Dr Maake Masango enquired about the representation of the Specialized Ministries at the Assembly.

Responses

Mr Lemopoulos stated that the church of the Orthodox member of the delegation to the Lao Evangelical Church was not a WCC member church. Concerning the Kimbanguist Church, the official belief of the church does not offend. A Specialized Ministry could send one delegated representative to the Assembly.

The General Secretary emphasized that the Kimbanguist Church's WCC membership had remained in force throughout the process of doctrinal clarification. It had never been suspended. It did not fall to the Assembly to consider such matters.

Archbishop Nifon suggested that the final clause of the suggested action, '…and that the Kimbanguist Church remain as a member during this process of dialogue and accompaniment' was unnecessary and should be omitted.

6.2 Constitution and Rules of the WCC

Mr Lemopoulos also presented a document dealing with matters consequent to the Central Committee decisions in February 2005 (Minutes, pp. 137ff) to be referred to the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee.

6.3 Nominations to Consultative Bodies

The Executive Committee had before it proposed lists of names for the Faith and Order Standing Commission, the Core Group of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, the Core Group of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, and the Core Group of the Bossey Board.

Dean Gadegaard requested that, before this matter was considered by the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee, a discussion in plenary take place.

There was discussion on the **three core groups**.

Why were such groups necessary? Would it not be possible for the Central Committee meeting immediately after the Assembly to appoint full commissions to ensure continuity? That would not be possible as that meeting of the Central Committee would be very short (about three hours). The core groups would serve only from February to September 2006, when the Central Committee would appoint the full commissions. Members of the core groups would be eligible to serve on the full commissions, but would not necessarily do so.

The major discussion was on the proposed slate of thirty names to serve on the **Faith and Order Standing Commission**.

The proposal was that the Central Committee meeting in February 2006 appoint them as the Standing Commission. The Central Committee did not have it in its power to object to particular names. Its two possible actions were to approve the list as it stood or refer the whole list back to Faith and Order for reconsideration.

The process by which the slate of names had been drawn up was described. Churches had been invited to present several names for consideration and state their preferred candidates. However, because of the need to ensure balances, etc., it had not always proved possible to follow the expressed preferences of the churches.

Rev. Dr Thomas Best, Faith and Order Director, assured the committee that every name on the slate had been nominated by that person's church.

The matter was referred to the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee for consideration and recommendation.

7. ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS

Dr Marion Best, Vice-Moderator, presiding, welcomed Rev. Norman Shanks, moderator of the Assembly Planning Committee, Mr Doug Chial, Geneva-

based Assembly Co-ordinator, and Rev. Rui Bernhard, Brazil-based Local Co-ordinator, and invited Mr Shanks to speak.

Rev. Norman Shanks, in presenting the Assembly Preparations report, mainly for information, said that over the two previous days he had had encouraging meetings with staff involved in Assembly preparations. Preparations were well underway.

Some decisions did fall to the Executive Committee to make: on nominations, on the flow of the business agenda, on the time committees needed to complete their work, and on the reception of reports using consensus procedures. There was also a change in programme to be discussed, in the light of a proposed vigil on 21 February.

Mr Doug Chial spoke to the Assembly Preparations Report, section by section, and invited Metropolitan Gennadios, moderator of the Assembly Worship Committee, to speak on Assembly worship.

Metropolitan Gennadios said that the compilation of the Worship Book was complete and that it was now being translated.

Rev. Rui Bernhard described the proposal for a Vigil for Peace to be held on Tuesday 21 February. It had been felt that to maintain the momentum of the Assembly a further highlight was needed towards the end. It would be a gathering at a central location in Porto Alegre and would be prepared by a liturgy group led by youth.

Dr Best invited questions and comments on Assembly worship and the proposed vigil.

Discussion

Major points made in discussion were:

The Worship Book is being printed in Brazil and will be distributed to participants on arrival. Requests for early dispatch in December, for purposes of practicing, can be made.

The timing of the opening worship (1800 hrs) has been fully discussed: it will be accessible to local people and it is at a cooler time of day. There is a logic to the flow of the agenda on the first day.

The Vigil for Peace is a local initiative. It must be carefully planned with clear objectives and not be allowed to degenerate into a political protest. It would last three hours (1900 – 2200 hrs). It could include destruction of small arms with artisans converting them into instruments of peace.

Any eucharistic services would be outside the official programme. The University Chapel (capacity 450) would be available for them, and there would be a worship office on site to take bookings. A joint Lutheran/Reformed/Anglican eucharist would be a possibility. Local people could be involved in the preparation of eucharistic services. The Bible Studies, 'Springs of Living Water', had been published in August as a Risk Book, in five languages.

Mr Chial, on the thematic plenaries, assured the committee that comments by the Central Committee had been taken into account, and there had been further consultation with the Officers. He gave detailed outlines of each session, together with names of proposed speakers, whom the Officers had authorized to be invited.

Dr Best invited comments.

It was noted that some (not members of the Executive Committee), rightly or wrongly, have a negative attitude towards Professor Jeffrey Sachs. It was accepted that he did excite opposition, but he was an important figure in the field of economic reform and poverty reduction. His presence would give profile to the Assembly.

A plea was given that an attempt be made to draw all the thematic plenaries, which treated issues in a compartmentalized way, into a single comprehensive analysis. That may, however, be an unrealistic expectation. It might prove possible for a comprehensive world statement on globalization to emerge from the Assembly. The possibility was there, but, given the variety of persons and viewpoints in the Assembly, it might well not happen. What we were looking for was not so much a definition of globalization but rather an understanding of its consequences and appropriate reactions.

Mr Chial then described the Ecumenical Conversations and the Mutirão.

Twenty-two **Ecumenical Conversations** were proposed and they would work over three days. Young people present, as well as delegates, would participate in them, thus forming a unique group of participants. The Ecumenical Conversations would not produce a report, but would produce a record. Members of Assembly committees would be assigned to the Ecumenical Conversations as listeners, and they would feed back what they had heard into the thinking of their committees. Details of the issue to be considered by each conversation were given, together with a draft list of leaders (one moderator and two rapporteurs per conversation). On their first day, the conversations would examine their issue; on the second day, consider how the churches are responding; and on the third day, explore future ecumenical possibilities.

The Mutirão would make the Assembly much more than a meeting for constitutional business. It would involve up to 1,000 people active locally in ecumenical life and witness. They would be much more than 'visitors'. The Mutirão was not part of official Assembly business. It would have a full programme of its own, including workshops.

Dr Best invited comments.

The lesson learned from Harare, where some padares whose leaders had travelled long distances had no participants, was that good publicity and signage were important. That should be avoided at Porto Alegre, as all would be located in one building. The number of workshops was being intentionally

limited to ensure adequate attendance. It would not be necessary to sign up in advance.

The meeting adjourned.

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira, Vice-Moderator, presiding, at a second session, invited Mr Chial to continue his presentation.

Mr Chial described **youth involvement** in the Assembly. There were already six young people working in Geneva as interns involved in Assembly preparations. The World Student Christian Federation would be holding its Executive Committee prior to the Assembly and the committee members would remain for the Assembly.

He further described activity in the area of **communication**: the Bible Studies had already been published, and 'From Harare to Porto Alegre' would shortly be published. It was hoped to give Assembly participants as they left a video or DVD of Assembly highlights as a resource for them to use back home.

Regarding **logistics**, a first mailing had been recently sent to registered participants.

He finally described **Brazilian and Latin American involvement** in the Assembly and the expectation that there would be a good level of participation by Latin American Pentecostals.

Mr Chial then proceeded to present the actions to be taken by the Executive Committee.

Assembly Programme

Owing to the availability of thematic plenary speakers, the Overcoming Violence plenary, originally planned for Monday 20 February and the Church Unity plenary originally planned for Saturday 18 February were having to be interchanged. The proposed vigil would replace evening prayer on Tuesday 21

February. The Executive Committee was requested to examine the revised timetable and approve these changes.

Delegate confirmation

Sixty-four, out of 337 (excluding the "non-active") member churches (19%) had still to name their delegations and were being contacted. Of those nominations made, the proportions were: 37% women, 63% men, 41% lay, 59% ordained, and 14% youth. The Executive Committee was requested to review the list of delegates and confirm the member churches' nominations.

Discussion

Major points in the ensuing discussion were:

The percentage proportions were approximately the same as those at the previous Assembly. Churches with diaspora memberships will have their delegates listed together in the final list of delegates, irrespective of the delegates' places of residence. The principle of 25% of delegates being Orthodox was being observed. There are cases, owing to different ways of calculating membership, of apparently smaller churches having larger delegations than apparently larger churches. Churches with these and similar concerns should take them up directly with the General Secretary.

Officers' 15% nominations

A total of 109 out of 724 allocated seats were available for allocation through the 15% process. The Central Committee in February had nominated and confirmed 85 of these 109 seats, and authorized the Officers and the Executive Committee to nominate and confirm the remaining 24 delegates. The Officers in June had nominated an additional 19 delegates in this category, leaving five seats still to be negotiated. The Executive Committee was requested to review the Officers' nominations and confirm their nomination as Assembly delegates.

Discussion

Major points in the ensuing discussion were:

The Officers will nominate and confirm the remaining five delegates at their December 2005 meeting. Any suggestions should be made directly to the General Secretary. Three of the 19 now being nominated by the Officers were persons with disabilities.

Invitations

The Officers had reviewed in June a list of possible persons to be invited to the Assembly and invitations had already been issued. The Executive Committee was now requested to review and confirm the list of invitations. Requests had also been received from persons wishing to attend with observer status and the Executive Committee was requested to examine these requests.

Discussion

Major points in the ensuing discussion were:

It was noted that some churches that had not included their leaders in their delegation were now asking for observer status for them. The policy on invitations to persons of other faiths was still being clarified, the problem being that not all faiths are so structured that it is clear to whom the invitations should be addressed. Some church dignitaries were being invited as guests, and thus would not have the right to speak or vote. There were, however, other ways in which their presence could be acknowledged and they could make a meaningful contribution to the Assembly, e.g. by bringing greetings or, in the case of the Ecumenical Patriarch, by his preaching at the Opening Worship.

Assembly agenda

The Central Committee in February had already approved the agenda, or flow, of the Assembly. Proposals were now being put to this meeting of the

Executive Committee for further development of the Assembly business agenda.

Assembly moderation

The Executive Committee was requested to designate a moderator for the opening and/or subsequent plenaries of the Assembly, and to request that the General Secretary prepare proposals for the moderation of each session, for further review by the Officers in December and by the Executive Committee at its meeting immediately prior to the Assembly.

Discussion

It was noted that the Executive Committee (only those members present for the Assembly) would be meeting for the last time on Monday 13 February, but only for any necessary last-minute decisions. It would be the last meeting before the Assembly of any governing body, after which the Assembly Business Committee would take over.

Assembly decision-making procedures

The Central Committee had already approved the procedures for consensus decision-making and the accompanying manual. The manual would be long and participants would need to be prepared for the decision-making procedures. There would thus be a role-play during each of the two pre-assemblies and at the Orientation Plenary at the beginning of the Assembly. There would be a permanent office for assistance with procedures for any delegates seeking advice.

The Executive Committee was requested to issue invitations to Dr Jill Tabart and Rev. Dr D'Arcy Wood, both of the Uniting Church in Australia, to serve as consensus mentors.

Assembly leadership development

It was proposed to hold a four-day meeting 7-11 December 2005 to train core Assembly leaders (Officers, proposed committee moderators and rapporteurs, together with staff serving each committee) to prepare them for use of the procedures, sharpen annotated committee agendas and develop a common reporting style. The Executive Committee was thus requested to consider the proposal with a view towards issuing invitations. There was also a proposal for a one-day training session for leaders of Ecumenical Conversations immediately prior to the Assembly. The Executive Committee was thus requested to review the proposed leaders of Ecumenical Conversations and to consider authorizing the General Secretary to invite them to this training session.

Central Committee nominations procedures

The Central Committee had already at its February 2005 meeting (Minutes, pp. 146) approved procedures for the election of up to 150 Central Committee members and eight presidents. A draft profile of the future Central Committee was presented comprising: a constitutional profile, a confessional profile, representation of churches with a membership of less than the minimum currently required (formerly 'associate member churches'), regional profile, and gender and other balances. To continue the process the Executive Committee was requested to review the draft Central Committee profile, to offer comments for its future development and to consider authorizing the General Secretary to host a meeting of a core group of the proposed Assembly Nominations Committee prior to the Assembly.

Assembly committees

The Central Committee had already at its February 2005 meeting approved the names, size and general agenda of Assembly committees.

The Executive Committee now had before it a list of proposed committee moderators and rapporteurs and a list of proposed committee members, based

on wide consultation. It was noted that the proposed moderator of the Message Committee was a young person.

The Executive Committee was now requested to review the proposal for Assembly committee moderators and rapporteurs and to authorize the General Secretary to invite those agreeing to serve to attend the leadership training meeting in December 2005.

The Executive Committee was also requested to review the draft list of Assembly committee membership, and to request the General Secretary to continue developing the proposals for review by the Officers with a view to informing potential committee members of their nomination to serve.

The Executive Committee was also requested to consider the possibility of identifying up to five delegated representatives of ecumenical partners to serve key committees as 'advisors' to that committee.

Discussion

The Moderator emphasized the need to get the balances on these committees right. Imbalances needed to be reduced as far as possible. He asked for proposals to redress imbalances to be made to the General Secretary. The Officers would continue reviewing these lists in December. The lists would have to be acceptable to the Assembly members, as they would need to confirm committee membership and leadership at their first business session.

Business Committee membership

There was a problem concerning Business Committee membership, as Rule III 5 (a) provided for moderators of hearings to serve on the Business Committee. There would, however, be no hearings at this Assembly, the nearest equivalent being the Ecumenical Conversations, but electing all their 22 moderators to serve on the Business Committee would make it impossibly large. It was proposed, using the provision for 'ten delegates who are not members of the

outgoing Central Committee' to serve on the Business Committee, to appoint ten delegates from among the moderators of the Ecumenical Conversations.

The Executive Committee was thus requested to consider this interpretation of Rule III and to request the General Secretary to prepare a slate of Business Committee membership for review by the Officers in December and the Executive Committee prior to the Assembly.

Discussion

Dean Gadegaard supported the proposal but observed that the Business Committee would still be large.

HH Aram I stressed the need for a proper balance on the Business Committee.

Dr Best expressed the hope that the names of leaders of committees could be approved at this present meeting so that they could be invited to the December training meeting.

Mr Chial also presented, for information, an Assembly budget overview giving a current forecast, which was balanced. In response to a question, he stated that the maximum number of participants, of all categories, would be 3,000 and that 1,400 had already registered.

Fr Kishkovsky expressed his appreciation for the good work done and being done by the Assembly Planning Committee and the staff [applause].

Mr Shanks thanked him for his comments and added that thanks were due not only to the Assembly Office staff but also to all the staff involved in the Assembly preparations.

Mrs Justice Adinyira expressed the thanks of the Executive Committee to Mr Shanks, Mr Chial and Mr Bernhard and closed the session.

8. STAFFING (CLOSED SESSION)

8.1 Contract extensions and other information

The Moderator, in a closed session, invited the General Secretary to present the Staffing Report.

The General Secretary reported that there were no new appointments of programme staff to be announced.

He proposed the following contract extension:

Public Information

Mr Juan-Carlos Michel (Argentina, Evangelical Church of the River Plate), Media Relations Officer. Will complete four years on 30 November 2006. Period of service extension for one year recommended, from 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007.

The Executive Committee **authorized** the General Secretary to proceed with the above contract extension, the legal obligations of the World Council of Churches to be binding only as from the actual signing by both parties of the corresponding contract extensions.

There were no new departures, retirements or resignations of programme staff to be announced. The Executive Committee was again reminded of the departure of Rev. Dr Elizabeth Tapia from the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, on 31 December 2005, notified at their previous meeting.

Director, Faith and Order Commission

The General Secretary reported that the Faith and Order Standing Commission at its meeting in June 2005 had been unable to propose a name for appointment as Faith and Order Director for approval by the Executive Committee (Executive Committee Minutes, August 2004, pp. 47-48). It had thus been agreed with the Commission that Rev. Dr Thomas Best, who had been Acting Director, be appointed Director until his retirement in 2007. The Officers were thus now recommending to the Executive Committee that it appoint Rev. Dr Thomas Best as Director, Faith and Order Commission, until the end of his present contract. Dr Best's church (Disciples) had welcomed the proposal.

Discussion

While there was no questioning the rightness of Dr Best's appointment as Faith and Order Director, there was considerable discussion concerning the process. It was alarming that there had been two rounds in the search for a suitable candidate without arriving at a successful conclusion. It had resulted in a loss of credibility for the WCC. Some persons with high qualifications had applied, but high qualifications alone did not make someone the right person for the post. The falling interest in Faith and Order matters was also indicated by the small number of churches (132) responding to the request for suggestions for future Faith and Order Commission members. The Faith and Order by-laws needed to be reviewed, as they laid down a slow and complicated appointment procedure. The process of recruitment for Dr Best's successor would have to begin shortly, and care would have to be taken to ensure that the process did not run into the same difficulties.

The Executive Committee **approved** the appointment of Rev. Dr Thomas Best as Director, Faith and Order Commission, until his retirement in March 2007.

Warm appreciation was also expressed both for Dr Best's leadership of the Faith and Order team and for the generosity of the Christian Church (Disciples) for his secondment.

The Christian Church (Disciples) had also indicated its willingness to supply a second seconded member of staff to cover the areas of work previously done by Dr Best. The WCC would work with the Christian Church in the recruitment of this staff member. Since the post was a secondment, a vacancy notice was not necessary.

The Executive Committee **endorsed** this process, with appreciation to the Christian Church.

Further appreciation was expressed to the Evangelical Church in Germany for the secondment of **Rev. Dr Kersten Storch** as Faith and Order Programme Executive. Negotiations would be pursued with the EKD to ensure that there would be no gap in this position, as continuity at the present time was important. The continued commitment of the EKD to this secondment was accepted with gratitude.

The General Secretary also presented for information:

Appointments

MANAGEMENT

IMD – NY Office
Ms Caroline HENNESSY (USA, Roman Catholic Church), US Income Development Officer (Consultant), from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2007 (2 years contract, renewable).

Directorate - Finance
Ms Corinne OTT (France, Roman Catholic Church), Financial Business Manager, from 13 April 2005 – indefinite contract.

PROGRAMME

Publication Information
Mr Aleksander WASYLUK (Poland, Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Poland), Junior WEB Programmer and Design Consultant, from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2007.

International Affairs
Ms Segmenish ASFAW (Ethiopia, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church), Junior Consultant for Communication and Planning, from 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006.

Ms Gemma ABBS (UK, Church of England) EAPPI Communication Officer, from 25 July 2005 (1 year contract, renewable).

Ms Katherine NIGHTINGALE (USA), Christian Aid Secondment, from 1 September 2005 (1 year contract).

Mission & Ecumenical Formation
Dr Maria ARANZAZU AGUADO ARRESE (Spain, Roman Catholic Church) Secondment by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, from 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2010 (5 years contract).

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Ecumenical Institute Bossey
Dr K.C. ABRAHAM (India, Church of South India), Visiting Professor, from 1 November 2005 to 30 June 2006.

Departures

MANAGEMENT

Human Resources Management
Ms Angelica ESPINOZA (Chile, Roman Catholic Church) Associate Human Resources Manager: resigned her contract on 31 December 2005 after 27 years service.

PROGRAMME

Mission & Ecumenical Formation
Sr Elizabeth MORAN (UK, Roman Catholic Church) Secondment by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, retirement on 30 June 2005.

Vacancies

Currently no vacancies to be announced.

The appointments of Dr Maria Aranzazu Aguado Arrese (seconded by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity) and of Dr K C Abraham, as visiting professor at the Ecumenical Institute, were noted with particular appreciation. Appreciation was also expressed for the service of Sr Elizabeth Moran, Dr Aguado Arrese's predecessor.

The General Secretary presented two further matters for consideration.

He had authorized unpaid leave, May – December 2005, for **Dr Tarek Mitri** (Programme Executive, Inter-Religious Relations and Dialogue), who had been nominated 'Interim Minister' in the interim Government of Lebanon and recently Minister of Culture in the new Government. Dr Mitri would confirm at the latest in December 2005 whether he would return to the WCC in January 2006 or definitively resign.

Dean Gadegaard expressed concern at Dr Mitri's absence at this time of run-up to the Assembly, where Inter-Religious Relations would be a high profile issue, and wondered if this was a prelude to yet another staffing gap. Should a search for a successor begin immediately so as to ensure that there would be no gap if he did not return?

HH Aram I shared Dean Gadegaard's concern. Dr Mitri was not able to arrive at a decision at the present moment, but he was aware of the WCC's position and would make his decision as soon as possible.

The General Secretary reassured Dean Gadegaard that leave of absence cannot be indefinite, that there was a high calibre team preparing for Inter-Faith Relations at the Assembly, and that, even if Dr Mitri were not there, it would be adequately covered.

Ecumenical Institute, Bossey

Following the passing away of **Rev. Dr Faitala Talapusi** on 12 May 2005 (Samoa, Congregational Christian Church in Samoa), Lecturer, negotiations had started with the aim of elaborating a new framework for continuing with the secondment of a professor.

8.2 Review of Management Team Services

The General Secretary stated that the WCC Pre-Assembly Evaluation and Management Report (January 2005) had underscored the lack of competence and functioning of the Human Resource system and called for clarity in personnel policy. Subsequently to the Evaluation and Management Report, he had made his own assessment of the situation. As part of the overall Finance and Management structure, he had thus proposed internal reorganization and realignment of responsibilities, amongst others in human resources management. That proposal had been agreed by the Executive Committee at its meeting in February 2005 (Minutes, pp. 32-33). Now, on the recommendation of the Staff Leadership Group (SLG) he was recommending

that the Executive Committee assign the overall leadership of the Human Resources function to a member of the SLG, as follows:

1. The position of the Human Resources Manager/Director be phased out as soon as possible, but no later than May 2006, as part of the internal reorganization and realignment of the overall Finance and Management structure; and
2. The position of the outgoing Associate Human Resources Manager/Director, who had tendered her resignation with effect from 31 December 2005, be evaluated and replaced from within.

Dr Best expressed her appreciation to the General Secretary. She recognized that the proposals contained some painful decisions. It was a great relief that the process was underway, with a clear course of action and dates.

Dean Gadegaard supported Dr Best's remarks. He stressed the urgency of implementing the proposals. He was particularly concerned about the pressures on finance staff, where the whole financial operation was dependent on the expertise of two key staff members.

The General Secretary was grateful for these expressions of appreciation.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above two recommendations.

8.3 ACT International

The General Secretary then spoke of a difficult situation that had arisen in connection with the staffing of ACT International, for which the WCC provided human resources services. The new Director of ACT International had been given a contract for four years, but his appointment had been terminated after only one year. Any legal action would be against the WCC as the provider of human resources management, and not against ACT International. The matter had been settled out of court and without financial implications for the WCC.

The experience had, however, highlighted the problem of the WCC's providing human resources management for bodies that it did not control. As well as ACT International, there was the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and, in future, the Proposed Ecumenical Alliance for Development. Steps were being taken with these bodies to indemnify the WCC in such cases of dispute.

Fr Kishkovsky appreciated the leadership of the General Secretary in this matter. He had played a critical role in protecting the Council.

The Moderator closed the session.

9. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Marion Best, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited Dean Anders Gadegaard to present the Report of the Finance Sub-Committee.

Dean Gadegaard **presented the Report**

9.1 Ratification of 2004 financial statements

The sub-committee reviewed and ratified the 2004 audited financial statements, a preliminary draft of which had been presented to the Finance Committee in February 2005.

Unrestricted Funds had increased by CHF 1.6 million to CHF 3.4 million, being approximately CHF 0.3 million less than had been anticipated when draft results had been reviewed in February. It was explained that to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards, an adjustment of CHF 0.3 million had been required to establish a provision for untaken vacation. Further, unless there were substantial reductions in the balances of untaken vacation, the Council would be required to increase the provision in 2005, with an unbudgeted adjustment of the same value.

The sub-committee **recommended** that the **Executive Committee ratify** the 2004 financial statements as audited and published, for submission for approval to Central Committee in 2006.

The Executive Committee **agreed by vote** to ratify the 2004 financial statements as audited and published.

The sub-committee further **recommended** that for the well-being of staff, and in order to avoid further increase of provisions, the **Executive Committee require** that the regulation for the carrying forward of vacation days at the year end be revised, reducing the number of approved days to five (one week), for implementation from the end of 2006.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

9.2 KPMG Management Report

The sub-committee reviewed the report from KPMG on observations arising from the audit in 2004. The report raised three significant observations only. These concerned financial controls at Bossey, procedures for payment of education allowances for the children of eligible staff, and controls over salary advances. The sub-committee considered management's responses to the issues to be satisfactory.

Current policy allows staff to benefit from one month's salary advance under certain exceptional conditions. Following review of the current statistics for salary advances made to staff, the sub-committee learned that the practice might have become more frequent than expected. In addition, it was noted that where staff benefited from WCC's education allowance covering part of university fees for children, advances are also made to staff for the payment of the entire university fees, the loan then being repaid by deduction from salary over the following months.

The sub-committee **recommended**:

- that progress on corrective action with regard to the procedures for payment of education allowances be reported to the Officers in their meeting before the year end;
- that a policy governing the advances made for the payment of university fees be formulated, and that the policy be in keeping with current practice.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

9.3 Membership income

The sub-committee heard a report on membership income.

The Assembly in Harare in 1998 had set the target for membership fee income at CHF 10 million for the next Assembly year. If adopted in full by all churches, the new membership calculation system introduced in 2003 would result in annual membership income close to that target.

It is estimated that 75% of member churches will pay membership contributions in 2005, compared with 65% in 2004. Despite the increase in the participation rate, membership income does not approach Harare's target. While raising income beyond CHF 6.5 million in the near future seems unlikely, it is expected that the budget of CHF 6.3 million in 2005 will be met.

The Task Force appointed by the Central Committee in 2003 (Minutes, p.175) to oversee the introduction of the membership calculation system had considered requests from churches concerning revision of their membership fee calculations.

The Tuvalu Christian Church, a small church with 9,000 members, had requested that their fee be fixed at US$ 2,000, rather than at CHF 4,468, this being a fee assessment based on an error. The Task Force's advice in this matter had been **to accept their proposal**.

It was the opinion of the Executive Committee that negotiations should continue with the Armenian Apostolic Church in Etchmiadzin.

As required by Central Committee, 27 long-term non-paying churches had received a letter requesting that they contact the Council before 1 October 2005 to discuss payment of membership fees, after which date, should there have been no contact, their membership status would be classified as inactive. Seventeen churches had not responded to date. The Task Force's recommendation was **to proceed to classify as inactive those member churches which did not respond to the Council's request by 1 October 2005.**

The sub-committee discussed the case of churches in association with the Council. The sub-committee considered that an obligatory contribution of at least half of the expected full fee under the membership calculation system should be paid in order to maintain the status of a church in association.

The Finance sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee:

- endorse the recommendation of the Task Force concerning the Tuvalu Christian Church; and
- introduce a fee equivalent to half of that for full membership for the new category of churches in association with the Council.

Discussion

There was some discussion on inactive member churches. Principal points made were:

An inactive member church (i.e. a church having had no communication with the WCC since the last Assembly) was not eligible to send a delegate or delegates to the coming Assembly. Obviously, none of the 17 churches having had no communication had appointed delegates. Designating a church as an 'inactive member church' was one stage before suspension of membership, which is a matter for the Central Committee.

There was also discussion on the amount of the contribution to be made by churches in association, a matter referred by the Central Committee to the Executive Committee for decision (Central Committee Minutes, February

2005, p. 143). However, since the reference back by the Central Committee concerned whether a contribution should be 'obligatory' or merely 'expected' and not the amount of a possible contribution, the matter was not pursued.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation to endorse the recommendation of the Task Force concerning the Tuvalu Christian Church and further **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation concerning inactive member churches.

9.4 Renovation of the conference hall

Further to review of a plan to transform the conference hall presented to the Finance Committee in February 2005, the Finance Committee had recommended that both architectural and financing plans be prepared for submission to the Finance sub-committee in September.

It was reported that preliminary discussions with certain funding partners had not indicated the likelihood of being able to raise funding for the project in the very near future. In the meantime, other renovation needs had been identified and were to be presented to the Finance sub-committee later in the present meeting. In these circumstances, the Finance Committee's recommendation had not been pursued further at this stage.

The Finance sub-committee had **received** this report with some disappointment, and **recommended** that the preliminary work and ideas for this renovation not be set aside definitively, but held for further review when new capital expenditure projects might be contemplated.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

9.5 Endowment Fund investment tender

In February, the Finance Committee had requested that the results of the investment tender then in progress be reported to the Officers of the Finance Committee when the results and conclusions had been reviewed. It was

reported that work had not yet reached conclusion. Investment results were briefly reviewed, confirming that the Endowment Fund of CHF 5.3 million was performing well under the present investment manager, and reporting a return of over 8% for the seven months to July.

The Finance sub-committee **recommended** that conclusion be reached and reported to the Officers of the Finance Committee before the year end.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

9.6 Meeting with the Officers of the Pension Fund Board

The Officers of the Pension Fund Board had presented a report on the current situation of the pension fund.

Following the adverse market conditions of recent years, which had had impact on pension funds in general, the pension fund's reserves had been depleted. Despite interim corrective measures taken from 2002, the pension fund continued to report a modest lack of coverage of its commitments at the end of 2004. In accordance with its legal responsibilities, and further to its review of recommendations by the actuary and other advisers, the Pension Fund Board would revise the terms of the pension fund scheme with effect from 2006, with the objective of gradual reduction in the fund's commitments. While staff benefits earned to the date of change in the scheme were guaranteed, from 2006 future staff benefits would be affected adversely in several ways. In particular, there would be a 25% reduction in the annual pension rate from 2% to 1.5%; a new method of calculation of the transferable credit would be implemented; and a revision of early retirement benefits was also contemplated.

As a related issue, following discussion of the specific requests of the Officers of the Pension Fund Board as set out below, it was the sub-committee's view that the Council should further consider fostering a culture whereby executive staff would complete a cycle of work of seven years, then returning to their home churches to share their ecumenical experience.

Further to the specific requests of the Officers of the Pension Fund Board, and in response to their request that the Council demonstrate its moral responsibility towards employees and retired staff of the Council, the Finance sub-committee **agreed** that:

- the Council reaffirm its commitment to working together with the Pension Fund Board by entering into dialogue in advance should there be a necessity to decide upon reductions in staff;
- the Council should consider the recruitment where possible of younger staff, advantageous not only in the structure of pension fund membership, but more importantly in working towards the Council's goal of ensuring ecumenical formation;
- the Assembly Finance Committee agenda include a report on the situation of the Pension Fund, on the understanding that attention would be paid both to the preparation of a short, well-presented and creative document;
- should reduction in staff prove necessary, consideration will be given at that time by the Council to the payment of a voluntary corrective contribution to the Pension Fund.

The Finance sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee **endorse** the above points of agreement with the Officers of the Pension Fund Board, and **encourage** the Staff Leadership Group to take action to ensure their implementation in matters of dialogue and general staffing policy wherever appropriate.

After making some minor changes to the report, the Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to the above recommendation in the form given above.

9.7 Results to July 2005

The sub-committee reviewed the results to July 2005, which presented an increase to Unrestricted Funds of CHF 1.3 million, and a decrease in Restricted Funds of CHF 1 million.

The increase to Unrestricted Funds was ahead of target, set at CHF 1.6 million for the whole year. There were certain risks which might impact the expected outcome for the year, including the need to increase the vacation provision. A forecast was to be prepared to factor in these risks, and present the best estimate of the year's outcome.

It was noted that as last year, programme and other costs for the Restricted Funds tended to lag behind budget on a pro-rata basis. It was reported that the results included the consolidation of expenditure reports from eight out of nine remote offices.

The outline balance sheet analysis at the end of July was briefly reviewed. The fact that the General Reserves reflected the Council's increasing ability to repay loans was to be discussed when reviewing capital expenditure plans.

The Finance sub-committee had recommended that staff proceed with the forecasting exercise for 2005, reporting the outcome to the Officers of the Finance Committee in October.

9.8 Budget 2006

The sub-committee reviewed the detailed budget 2006. Compared to the framework budget approved by Central Committee in February 2005, an increase in income of CHF 1 million and an increase in expenditure of CHF 2 million were reported. This development had an adverse impact on General Reserves, the allocation of unrestricted income to programmes having increased by CHF 0.8 million.

Based on both the review of results 2005 and budget 2006, the plans indicated that the net outcome at the end of 2006 would be a General Reserves balance of CHF 6.4 million. Reserves would thus move forward from the target of three months' salary costs, equivalent to CHF 4.5 million, to cover four months' salary costs. In this respect, the guidance of Central Committee to increase General Reserves towards a new target of six months' salary costs would be met.

Given this indication of progress, it was considered acceptable to approve the detailed budget. However, the sub-committee requested that in the future more detailed justification or explanations be presented should changes be proposed to an approved framework budget

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee **approve** the Budget 2006.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to approve the Budget 2006 (cf. Appendix IV).

9.9 Assembly Budget and current Forecast

The Assembly budget and current forecast were reviewed. Registration fee income was now expected to be lower, following a reduction in the registration fee for Brazilian and other Latin American participants in the Mutirão. Estimated costs remained close to budget. Working documents setting out the contributions expected from member churches confirmed that overall contributions income was expected to exceed target, compensating for the reduced registration fee income.

The sub-committee requested that staff ensure that all delegates are from active member churches, in line with the ruling of Central Committee 2003 (Minutes, p.131).

The sub-committee **received** the report.

9.10 Renovation for the security of the Ecumenical Centre

Following a preliminary review of the Ecumenical Centre's compliance with Swiss fire and safety regulations, it had been determined that a plan was required to work towards meeting important safety requirements. As a first step, a detailed audit of the building's security would be undertaken by professionals in 2005.

Preliminary assessments indicated that work would be required to modernize the electrical installation, isolate the wings from the main hall by fireproof doors, install a new alarm system, smoke detectors and emergency exits.

The Ecumenical Centre was constructed in the 60s, and its current level of conformity with regulations is similar to that of other local government buildings and hospitals, which are also now implementing appropriate renovation plans.

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee **affirm** its commitment to maintaining the Ecumenical Centre in accordance with appropriate regulatory standards, **requiring** that staff develop a plan to bring gradually into compliance the entire complex, the plan to be presented when the new Executive Committee meets in May 2006. The plan will address the financial consequences of the renovation of the building for security.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to the above recommendation.

9.11 Cash flow, loan repayment and capital expenditure plans

The sub-committee reviewed a preliminary working document analyzing the Council's future financial position up to 2010, assuming investment in the Ecumenical Centre of CHF 3.6 million over that period, as well as CHF 1 million for the renovation of staff villas at Bossey. The plan assumed that budgets 2005 and 2006 were met, generating a General Reserve position of over CHF 6 million by the end of 2006. Loans currently approved, including CHF 0.7 million for the new heating system, were taken into account. The model also assumed that no deficits would be incurred in 2007 to 2010, and in each of those years, a small increase to Unrestricted Funds would be made. Further, loan repayments for renovations at Bossey were assumed to increase from CHF 50,000 per year to CHF 0.2 million from 2006.

The plan indicated that with its available liquidity, the Council would be able to fund the above improvements, with one additional loan estimated at CHF

0.7 million. Further, the level of General Reserves would remain at CHF 5 million.

The sub-committee **recommended** that:

- Loan repayments be increased as indicated in the plan;
- An analysis of the real full cost per student for each of the graduate programmes at Bossey be made, with the objective of raising funds to meet scholarship costs;
- Bossey then work towards calling on a reduced share of unrestricted income, thus allowing the Council to repay an increased amount of the loans for renovation of the Institute;
- No new loan other than that already approved for the heating system be contracted at present, the objective being to finance further improvements where possible from the Council's own cash flow;
- A framework budget for 2007 be developed at the highest level of Restricted, Unrestricted and Designated Funds, documenting all assumptions made in its preparation, to be presented for review by the Officers in their meeting in December;
- Financial overviews presenting strategic plans for capital expenditure, loans and repayments over a five to six-year period be prepared on a regular basis for submission to future Finance Committee meetings.

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee **endorse** the above recommendations.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to endorse the above recommendations.

9.12 Assembly Finance Agenda

The sub-committee reviewed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Assembly Finance Committee. The sub-committee confirmed its agreement with the overall document.

It was emphasized from past experience that it was important that a good understanding of the financial situation of the Council be fostered across participants in all committees. Effort should be applied to ensure an excellent quality of documents or material presenting the recent history and current situation of both the Council and member churches. A brief glossary of financial terms would be considered useful.

An early interaction with the Assembly Programme Guidelines Committee and Policy Reference Committee would be advantageous.

The sub-committee **recommended** that drafts of documents for the Assembly Finance Committee be reviewed by the Officers in December.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to the above recommendation.

Dr Best thanked Dean Gadegaard and the Finance Sub-Committee for their Report.

10. REPORT OF THE STAFFING & NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Marion Best, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira to present the Report of the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee.

Mrs Justice Adinyira presented the Report.

10.1 Membership matters

10.1.1 Application which had been completed for consideration by the Executive Committee

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee recommend to the Central Committee that it accept the application of the Laos Evangelical Church according to the rules in force, subject to a visit before its meeting in September 2006.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.1.2 Pending applications

The sub-committee **recommended** to the Executive Committee

- that the six churches (Church of Christ in Congo; Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim, Nigeria; Malabar Independent Syrian Church, India; Presbyterian Church of Myanmar; Union of Baptist Churches, Burundi; United Church of Christ, Mozambique) be visited after the Assembly and their files be completed and processed for action by the Central Committee; and

- that during the visits to the six applicant churches the new rules on membership, if confirmed by the Assembly, be presented and discussed.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above two recommendations.

The Executive Committee **took note** that in the months following the Assembly the emphasis should be on interpreting the message and sharpening the programmatic implications of the Assembly, even if this might mean slowing down the process of dealing with membership applications.

10.1.3 Specialized Ministries

Bread for all
Christian Aid
Christian World Service
International Mission and Diaconia - Church of Sweden
Diakonisches Werk
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst – Church Development Service
Division for Global Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Evangelisches Missionswerk
FinnChurchAid
HEKS (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz - Swiss Interchurch Aid)
ICCO (Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation)
Lutheran World Relief
Norwegian Church Aid
Presbyterian World Service and Development, Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
Ecumenical Relief and Development - United Church of Canada
Wider Church Ministries - United Church of Christ
Week of Compassion - Christian Church (Disciples)
Worldwide Ministries Division - Presbyterian Church (USA)
Dan Church Aid

The sub-committee **recommended** to the Executive Committee

- that it recommend to the Central Committee that the above mentioned organizations be recognized as "Specialized Ministries in working relationships with the World Council of Churches", in accordance with Rule XVII of the WCC Constitution and Rules;
- that, in anticipation of the final decision to be taken by the Central Committee, it authorize the General Secretary to invite the above mentioned organizations to send each a delegated representative to the Assembly;

- that, if other applications come from specialized ministries participating in the WCC round table, it authorize the General Secretary to forward them to the Central Committee, and, meanwhile, to invite them to send each a delegated representative to the Assembly.

There was some discussion.

It was noted that while specialized ministries would be invited each to send a delegated representative to the Assembly, it would be at the cost of the relevant specialized ministry.

Where the diaconal division of a member church makes application for recognition, it does so in its own right. The member church does not submit the application on its behalf.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to the above recommendations.

10.1.4 Kimbanguist Church

The sub-committee **recommended** to the Executive Committee that the dialogue with the Kimbanguist Church continue, that the ecumenical organizations continue to accompany the church in further thinking about and articulating their faith, and that the Kimbanguist Church not be suspended from membership during this process of dialogue and accompaniment.

Principal points in the ensuing discussion were:

The official position of the church leadership had been made clear and it was on that basis that it was possible to make the above recommendation. The popular religiosity that had been reflected in earlier documents did not now feature in the official teachings of the church. The church itself had indicated its willingness to continue in dialogue with the WCC. The church's younger theologians had an ambitious plan to review every article of faith of the

Kimbanguist Church. Accompanying the church would involve workshops for these younger theologians, particularly to help them in their understanding of the doctrine of the Trinity.

The General Secretary, responding to the point that it was not necessary to state 'that the Kimbanguist Church not be suspended…', stated that, in the light of an earlier decision of the Executive Committee (Minutes, August 2004, pp.65-66), such an explicit statement was necessary.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.2 Constitution and Rules of the WCC

10.2.1 Constitution Article V and Rule I

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee recommend to the Assembly the adoption of the following amendments to Article V 1 (c) (3) and Article V 2 (b) (2) of the Constitution:
In each case delete "… representatives which the associate member churches have elected to the Assembly"; and insert "… representatives elected to the Assembly by churches which do not fulfil the criteria of size and have not been granted membership for exceptional reasons". The understanding behind the recommendation was that all member churches had been involved in preparing the new Rule I, as adopted by the Central Committee (Minutes 2003, pp. 125-130) for recommendation to the Assembly for confirmation, and that these amendments to Article V of the Constitution are simple consequences of the adoption of the new Rule I.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.2.2 Rules I and IV: use of consistent language

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee, subject to confirmation of Rule I by the Assembly, authorize making consistent the language in Rule I and Rule IV, to read in all cases 'churches which do not fulfill the criteria of size and have not been granted membership for exceptional reasons' instead of 'associate member churches'.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.2.3 Rule II (4): pending wording

The Central Committee (Minutes, February 2005, pp. 143) had authorized the Executive Committee to determine the question of financial contributions by churches which are in association with the WCC: should there be an expectation or an obligation that they make a contribution?

The Sub-Committee, having considered the matter, **recommended** that the following wording be adopted for Rule II (4):

Rule II (4) Shall be expected to make an annual contribution to the general budget of the Council.

Discussion

The view of the Finance Sub-Committee was that there should be an obligation: 'Shall make an annual contribution.' There were as yet no churches in this category. If the Rule II (4) had the formulation 'Shall be expected', it was not likely that member churches would transfer to this category in order to avoid making a contribution. In any case, large sums were not involved. The formulation 'Shall make…' was not intended to raise income but to receive an indication of commitment by churches in association. No fixed amount of contribution was laid down and it would be subject to negotiation. Even with the formulation 'Shall make…', there was still

sensitivity and flexibility embedded in other parts of the Rule, which had already been determined by the Central Committee.

Dr Best, aware of the division of opinion in the meeting, asked for some indication of where members stood. Five preferred 'Shall be expected…'. More than five preferred 'Shall make…'.

Dr Best enquired of the five whether, even if they did not prefer 'Shall make…', they could accept a consensus decision in its favour. They indicated that they could.

The Executive Committee thus **agreed by consensus**, by authorization of the Central Committee, that Rule II (4) should be: 'Shall make an annual contribution to the general budget of the Council. The amount of the contribution shall be agreed upon in consultation between the church and the Council and shall be regularly reviewed. No financial support will ordinarily be made available from the Council to such churches to facilitate their participation.

10.2.4 Matters that may need further consideration

The sub-committee **recommended** to the Executive Committee that all matters emerging from the adoption of the new Rules be recorded and brought to the Central Committee in September 2006 for consideration and decision.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

10.3 Assembly matters

10.3.1. Delegations for confirmation

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee confirm the nominations made by member churches.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

The General Secretary, aware that there were some outstanding concerns about the list just confirmed, stated that such concerns would be considered by the Officers at their December meeting.

10.3.2 Officers' 15% nominations

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee confirm the nominations made by the Officers under the 15% category.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

10.3.3 Invitations

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee

- confirm the list of invitations issued;

- encourage the General Secretary to invite in advisory capacity to the Assembly Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza, Ms Donnalie Edwards-Cabey, Ms Jana Krajcirikova, Rev. Septemmy Lakawa and Ms Idah Njobvu;

- approve the list of requests for observer status and affirm the practice to accept up to two names per organisation.

The General Secretary explained that the list of invitations that the Executive Committee was being requested to confirm was not exhaustive. There would be further names, e.g. from Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America, and representatives of other faiths. Inviting persons in an advisory capacity did not entail that the WCC would cover their costs.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the above recommendation.

[Note: The lists approved above are not reproduced here, as the full lists will be published in the record of the Assembly.]

10.3.4 Assembly Business

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee

- request the Moderator of the Central Committee to moderate the opening plenary of the Assembly and request the General Secretary to bring a proposal for moderation of all other sessions to the Business Committee;

- confirm the invitations to Dr Jill Tabart and Rev. Dr D'Arcy Wood;

- affirm the necessity of the December training sessions for assembly committee moderators and rapporteurs;

- affirm the necessity of a training session for moderators and rapporteurs of ecumenical conversations one day prior to the Assembly;

- support the proposal for committee leadership and authorize the General Secretary to make replacements in co-operation with the Officers.

- support the proposal for committee membership and authorize the General Secretary to bring a final balanced list to the Officers for confirmation;

- affirm that up to five delegated representatives be invited as advisors to each of the following Assembly committees: Finance, Programme Guidelines, Policy Reference and Public Issues;

- affirm the proposal for additional members of the Business Committee coming from the leadership of the ecumenical conversations and authorize the General Secretary to bring a final balanced list to the Officers for approval.

Dean Gadegaard requested that the Assembly Finance Committee be added to the list of Assembly committees having the possibility of having five delegated representatives as invited advisors (as above), which requested was agreed.

With that addition, the Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.3.5 Assembly Nominations Committee

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee

- approve the name of Rev. Dr Bernice Powell Jackson as moderator of the Nominations Committee;

- appoint by mail a core group of the Assembly Nominations Committee and mandate the preparation, in advance, of a proposal for a reasonable distribution of Central Committee seats;

- reaffirm earlier decisions regarding the nomination of delegates to the Central Committee from all Orthodox member churches, taking into account two matters requiring attention: (1) The seats of the Georgian and Bulgarian Orthodox Churches were in Harare 'entrusted' to Orthodox from other churches, with the understanding that they will resign should the churches return to WCC membership, and (2) The Eritrean Orthodox Church, which joined the Council recently, and, according to an intra-Orthodox understanding, should now be represented on the Central Committee;

- urge Orthodox churches to present to the Nominations Committee a complete list of nominees, dealing as appropriate with the internal distribution of seats;

- invite Orthodox churches to follow the criteria for gender balances and youth participation in the Central Committee;

- reaffirm the target percentages for the participation of women, youth and lay persons established by the Central Committee as part of the seat allocation process;

- recommend that these same percentages be applied to nominations for the next Central Committee, with mention of appropriate participation of indigenous persons and persons with disabilities;

The sub-committee also raised concern about the proposed schedule of the Assembly Nominations Committee, especially about the short period between first and second reading of the list of nominations.

There was some discussion on the appointment of the core group of the Assembly Nominations Committee.

The General Secretary informed the Executive Committee that the core group, of up to six persons, would need to be appointed by mail (electronic or regular) by consultation with the Executive Committee and then by decision of the Officers, so as to enable them to meet in December. The words 'by mail' were thus added (as above) to point two.

With that addition, the Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.4 Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee

- authorize the invitation, in the capacity of advisors, of members of the Steering Committee who were not nominated by their churches as delegates to the Assembly;
- interpret the role of the Permanent Committee during the Assembly (Rule VIII (5): '…shall advise the Business Committee of the Assembly') by defining its Terms of Reference as follows:
  a) to continue the concerns and dynamic of the Special Commission;
  b) to be present in and around all parts of the Assembly, especially when controversial issues or other reasons for tensions are likely to arise;

c) to provide mediation in situations where misunderstandings and conflicts arise;
d) to provide interpretation of events within the Assembly to the Assembly Business Committee; and
e) to meet during the Assembly and bring to the Central Committee suggestions about future agenda and working style.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.5 Nominations to consultative bodies

10.5.1 Faith and Order Standing Commission

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee authorize the General Secretary to seek in collaboration with the Officers of the Faith and Order Standing Commission solutions in order to resolve concerns raised about imbalances and nominations not following recommendations from member churches and bring a proposal to the Officers for further consideration.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.5.2 Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee recommend to the Central Committee at its first meeting after the Assembly (February 2006) that it appoint the CWME interim core group (as proposed by the CWME Commission at its meeting in Athens, 17-18 May 2005) to serve until the election of the new full commission at the Central Committee in August/September 2006.

The proposed names were:

- Father Amos Athanasios Akunda, South Africa, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa
- Ms Maria Koutatzi, Greece, Roman Catholic Church
- Rev. Anna Ljung, Sweden, Swedish Missionary Council
- Rev. Dr George Mathew Nalunnakkal, India, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East
- Rev. Dr Tito Ruben Paredes, Peru, Centro Evangélico de Misiología Andino-Amazonica
- Rev. Hesdie Zamuel, Suriname, Moravian Church in Suriname

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.5.3 Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee recommend to the Central Committee at its first meeting after the Assembly (February 2006) that it appoint the CCIA interim core group to serve until the election of the new full commission at Central Committee in August/September 2006.

The Director of International Affairs would submit names to the WCC Officers after a consultative process with the broader CCIA constituency.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

10.5.4 Bossey Board

The sub-committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee

- recommend to the Central Committee at its first meeting after the Assembly (February 2006) that it appoint a four-member core group of the Bossey Board, to serve until the election of the new full Bossey Board at Central Committee in August/September 2006;
- forward the following names to the Central Committee:

Rev. Dr Wesley Ariarajah, USA, Professor of Ecumenics at Drew University (has served on the outgoing Board)
Dr Robert Welsh, USA, General Secretary, Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council (has served on the outgoing Board)
Professor Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, South Africa, Professor of African Theology at the School of Theology and Religion, University of KwaZulu, Natal
Professor Dr Erlinda Senturias, Philippines, Dean of Midsayap Christian College.

(Professor François Dermange, University of Geneva; Mr Georges Lemopoulos (WCC Deputy General Secretary), and Rev. Professor Ioan Sauca (Director of the Ecumenical Institute) would complete the composition of the core Board.)

- recommend that Dr Robert Welsh serve as convenor of the group.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

11. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ISSUES SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Marion Best, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited Bishop Rolf Koppe to present the Report of the Public Issues Sub-Committee.

Bishop Koppe requested Mr Peter Weiderud to introduce the proposed Statements.

11.1 Statement on Haiti

Mr Weiderud stated that the Public Issues Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee adopt the Statement on Haiti, to which only slight changes had been made.

STATEMENT ON HAITI

The people of Haiti are presently passing through an extremely difficult period. The poorest country in the Americas has experienced serious social and political turmoil, which continues to have a huge impact on the lives of Haitians. The last years of former President Aristide were characterized by violence, corruption, impunity and chaos. In early 2004 a violent uprising forced Aristide into exile and an interim government was established. This government has called for elections in November 2005.

Despite the presence of the UN stabilization mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) violence by armed gangs continues to be a threat to the population, particularly in some areas of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Killings, rape, kidnapping and extortion are common and are used as a weapon to instil fear and insecurity amongst the people. In addition to the political instability, there is endemic poverty and environmental degradation throughout the country.

History has been hard on Haiti which was in many ways born as a "promised land". In 1804, a former slave led the independence movement in Haiti that resulted in the creation of the first black-led republic and the first Caribbean state to achieve independence. Through its history, Haiti has experienced invasion by the United States, followed by 30 years of Duvaliers' dictatorship, UN sanctions after the *coup d'état* of 1991 and natural disasters including hurricanes and earthquakes. Last year, severe floods left more than 2000 dead or unaccounted for and over 200,000 Haitians homeless.

Despite this apparently hopeless situation, churches have actively engaged in the struggle for peace and justice, especially in recent years. Churches have issued messages to denounce the situation of 2003 and to call the Haitian people to reconcile. These messages have greeted the courage and determination of the Haitian people and their refusal to be governed by arbitrary means, abuse of human rights and ongoing impunity. They stressed the need for Haitians to learn to live together in peace and harmony. To help in the process of reconciliation, the messages imply the need for discussion on

a new social contract, and also place emphasis on the need to build anew the Haitian nation, after the collapse of its society.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has followed closely the developments in Haiti. A letter from the WCC's General Secretary in September 2003 to the Protestant Federation of Haiti and member churches responded to the Federation's message to the nation on August 2003. It recalled WCC's support to the churches and to the peace initiatives in the country and asked for an effective implementation of the democratization process and new elections. In November 2003, an ecumenical delegation comprised of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), the WCC, and Church World Service, visited Haiti to assess the situation and express solidarity with the churches and the people. The report highlighted the deepening of the political crisis, increasing violence and insecurity within the country, and abuse of human rights as well as the deterioration of the economy and the social fabric.

The visit of the WCC General Secretary to Haiti in August 2005 included amongst others meetings with member churches, representatives of other churches, ecumenical organisations, the interim President and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Haiti and chief of MINUSTAH. From the meetings held it was clear the civil society and the churches have joined hands to overcome the crisis and bring about change in social and political conditions to ensure the rule of law. A need to rebuild and strengthen the state was expressed, together with a stronger support from the UN, so the state could fulfil its obligations to protect the population and grant civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in the areas of education, health and labour conditions, and political elections. The visit strengthened the links with member churches, affiliated bodies and the ecumenical movement and expressed the concern, solidarity and prayers of the ecumenical family for the people of Haiti.

Acknowledging the critical situation in Haiti, the enormous challenges faced by the people and the witness of the churches in the country, touched in our

minds and our hearts by this reality, the Executive Committee of the WCC, meeting in Geneva, 13-16 September 2005:

Reaffirms its deep concern for the current unstable political situation in Haiti and acknowledges the efforts being made by different actors at the national and international levels to overcome it and strengthen democracy with peace and justice;

Expresses at the same time its concern for the continuous degradation of the environment and subsequent increasing vulnerability of the Haitian people to natural disasters, the migratory flux towards other countries and the heavy burden of external debt;

Calls on the government of Haiti to guarantee welfare for all and to strengthen democracy through the independence of the judiciary; to establish a security system for all, that prevents the spread of small arms and gangs in the country and prohibits arms trafficking; to ensure good governance and enactment of legislation for effective implementation of the electoral system in order to have an elected government in power by early 2006; to develop social policies that specifically address reintegration of the children and youth involved in armed groups;

Asks the international community, especially the UN, the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Organization of American States and the CARICOM (Caribbean Community of States) and the Rio Group, to strengthen its support to the process towards democracy, peace and justice in Haiti;

Reminds the international community and international financial institutions of the pledge made in July 2004 to support development initiatives in the country, strengthen democratic institutions and alleviate the debt burden and *calls on* them to fulfil their commitment without delay;

Welcomes the important contribution of civil society and commends its efforts towards unity, consensus and a new social contract of inclusion;

Acknowledges the important role of the churches in Haiti in building peace, justice and reconciliation; and *calls on* them to intensify ecumenical initiatives in this respect, especially the commitment of the churches to participate in the *Decade to Overcome Violence – Churches seeking reconciliation and peace*, following the biblical teaching "Seek peace and pursue it" (Psalm 34:14);

Commends the work being done in the country by international ecumenical partners such as Action by Churches Together (ACT) and the Lutheran World Services (LWS) through their local offices and networks;

Calls upon WCC member churches:

- seriously to consider, together with specialized ministries and other ecumenical partners, the provision of support to the churches in Haiti to develop an election monitoring team and provide it with necessary leadership;
- to express solidarity through actions and prayers for the people and the churches of Haiti, and to accompany and support them in these times of difficulty;
- to continue to be involved and follow the political development in Haiti to support processes towards genuine popular participation and a new social contract.

The Executive Committee **adopted by consensus** the above Statement on Haiti.

11.2 Statement on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Mr Weiderud further stated that the Public Issues Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee adopt the Statement on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. There had been only a few changes from the original version, mostly editorial changes in the preamble.

STATEMENT ON THE CONTROL OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Geneva, 13-16 September 2005, speaks out on small arms and light weapons to affirm God's vision of life in peace and fullness. We commend to citizens and authorities the establishment of good order in a culture of peace. We stand in solidarity with all who suffer the consequences of gun violence or live at risk.

Churches of the WCC have long pledged to live without resort to arms (Nairobi Assembly, 1975). Human security "rests in God [and] in mutual respect among the children of God" (Consultation on Militarism and Disarmament, Geneva, 1989). The WCC has repeatedly applied policies of disarmament and reconciliation to public life. WCC churches have designated the first ten years of this century as the Decade to Overcome Violence, a goal inseparable from the control of small arms and light weapons.

Among the many biblical admonitions for peace, one verse from the prophet Isaiah inspires churches on every continent. Its call to arbitrate, reform and begin anew is echoed in today's disarmament debates:

> "He shall *judge* between the nations, and shall *arbitrate* for many peoples; they shall *beat* their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation *shall not lift up* sword against nation, *neither shall they learn war* any more" *(Isaiah 2:4).*

In recent years churches have become leaders for peace in certain crisis zones, with women's groups resolving conflicts, pastors restoring shattered lives, peace education rising on the parish agenda, and public demonstrations supporting the rule of law. Faithful leaders and parishioners are exercising their unique potential to make the proliferation and misuse of small arms/light weapons a matter for public awareness, concern and remedial action.

Meanwhile church and other humanitarian and development agencies are finding ways to protect beneficiaries, aid workers and programmes from the threat of small arms. Programmes to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate ex-combatants are being refined over time, with some of the churches involved also stressing the need to work reconciliation into the same process.

Churches and church-related organisations in East, West and Southern Africa and in Latin America play key roles in community, national and regional projects to break the chain of supply and demand for weapons. Churches and church-related development organisations in the global North are strong supporters of such initiatives in the South, including the pioneering civil society and government scheme for regional arms control, the Nairobi Protocol. In Northern countries with significant small arms problems of their own, WCC member churches figure prominently among the advocates for corrective action.

In nations where the growing problem of firearms proliferation and misuse becomes the focus of a thorough public debate, new limits can be imposed on weapons possession and use. Experience in country after country shows that the road to stricter, more universal and more enforceable controls is arduous, but that progress is well within current capacities for governmental rule-setting, corporate responsibility, and public education.

At the international level today states are building a worldwide regulatory framework for the control of small arms and light weapons. The first pillar was the United Nations Programme of Action in this field in 2001. The UN instruments currently under discussion must ensure implementation of measures already agreed and begin to address the broad challenges to human security that remain. States are not alone in this endeavour. Leading up to the *UN Review Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* in 2006, new arms control partnerships between civil society groups and public authorities offer new models for success. A world of 640 million firearms that are largely uncontrolled requires this and much more.

Small arms and light weapons are weapons designed for use by one or two people. They range from pistols and sub-machine guns to rocket-propelled grenades and man-portable anti-aircraft missiles. Ammunition and landmines are part of the general category. Portability, low cost, ease of use and minimal maintenance of these weapons increase individual use, private ownership and black market potential.

Small arms and light weapons are used in the vast majority of the world's deaths by violence, taking about 1,000 lives each day. Small arms are used in some 350,000 suicide, homicide and conflict deaths each year. Many more deaths and injuries are caused indirectly when small arms accumulate and spread in unstable circumstances. Their presence fuels conflict, exacerbates abuses of human rights, criminal law and international humanitarian law, and creates obstacles to development. Weapons dispersed in war also remain available for years to disrupt peace, or derail it.

Most of those who die from firearms are people in the prime of life.

The risk factors associated with firearms apply within all countries, rich and poor. Small arms are especially dangerous: wherever masculinity is associated with violence; wherever disputes are settled by violence; where law enforcement is ineffective or gangs hold sway; where poverty and socio-economic inequality are high. Mere access to firearms is itself a major risk factor for violence - in suicides and in family and civil disputes.

Men perpetrate the most armed violence and are first among gunshot victims. Women experience a greater range of secondary consequences as well as direct injury and death. Women in affected areas deal daily with the threats and consequences of small arms violence. In conflict zones, their vulnerability tends to increase as societal constraints on men weaken. Damage to livelihoods, nutrition, health and education places additional burdens on women, as does the absence or loss of male family members. Women also use guns in combat and fill support roles for armed forces and armed groups.

The fate of children in conflict is increasingly shaped by small arms. Added to the direct toll in child casualties are intense fear, the loss of parents, providers and friends, uprooting, abduction, lost education, healthcare and aid, plus long-term traumas. Small arms technology makes it possible for children to carry and use adult weapons. An eight-year-old can be taught to fire an assault rifle.

All ages endure violence in the media, an increasingly important factor in the complex phenomenon of violence today. Incessant, unrealistic, glorified—it conditions childhood behaviour, influences cognitive development and shapes perceptions of reality throughout life. Media violence influences violent behaviour in the same way that advertisements influence consumer behaviour, with repetition, temptation and personal gratification. Media violence puts violent options on the agenda of society on a scale that would be difficult to replicate by any other legal means.

Small arms manufacturing takes place in more countries than any other sector of the global arms industry. The production and sale of small arms is dominated by the world's leading economies, but more and more developing countries have become involved since the end of the Cold War. Supplied mostly from that licit trade, the illicit trade in small arms is also widespread, an exercise in underground globalization. Weapons are a commodity - along with drugs, diamonds, timber and even human beings - traded on the black market to illegal groups. Arms brokers use the existing infrastructure of the world economy to circumvent national and international arms controls, enabled at times by inept or corrupt officials.

Approximately eight million firearms are manufactured each year. Some 300,000 guns are destroyed through micro-disarmament projects. The world community has the potential to reverse this trend. Change will come as political and corporate authorities, and individuals and groups at all levels, take greater responsibility for the geopolitical economy in small arms.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The Executive Committee calls on churches to take responsibility in the following areas related to the control of small arms and light weapons:

- Promote and support legislation and programmes that enhance community safety and well-being, address gun violence, and reduce related human suffering.
- Work with civil society and governmental bodies to enhance controls over the production, trade, possession and use of small arms, light weapons and ammunition; and to judge the effectiveness of such efforts by reductions in the numbers of victims.
- Make multilateral and interdisciplinary collaboration an integral part of church policies and actions on gun violence.
- Build networks within and between churches to advocate for change, including the adoption of an effective international Arms Trade Treaty.
- Share local and national information and best practices with church counterparts and others internationally.
- Commit more fully to Christian teaching about peace and disarmament within and beyond the church and to promoting the peaceful resolution of conflict within society and between nations.

Responsibility for Use

- Exercise the unique potential of the church to curb demand for small arms and light weapons, especially by changing public attitudes, shaping community values and becoming a public voice against gun violence. Recommended actions include education of children about firearms, parish collection and destruction of weapons, mentoring of ex-combatants and at-risk youth, dialogue with pro-gun groups, and political support for local, national and international arms control measures.
- Provide pastoral care and assistance for gunshot survivors and carry out public education and advocacy work about gun violence with and for survivors.

- Provide early warnings of conflict if small arms are introduced or increase in areas the church serves or monitors.

The Executive Committee calls on governments and civil society groups, as well as churches, to take responsibility for the possession and use of small arms as follows:

- Support and strengthen programmes that enlist broad community participation in reducing gun violence and that address the respective roles and responsibilities of women and men in overcoming gun violence.
- Include activities to prevent gun violence in public health, public security, human rights and development programmes.
- Promote and apply international human rights and humanitarian law as the standard for judging the use and misuse of firearms by military and armed groups.
- Implement, monitor and evaluate international standards for post-conflict disarmament and demobilization, for the long-term reintegration of ex-combatants in society, and for reconciliation within affected communities.
- Include small arms controls in responsive measures where vulnerable populations face extraordinary risks, as part of the international norm known as the 'Responsibility to Protect.'
- Ensure that former child soldiers are reintegrated into communities, schools and homes. Advocate for a binding international convention to prohibit children from serving in any capacity with any armed force. Ban arms sales to governments and groups that use children as soldiers.

The Executive Committee calls on businesses, governments, civil society groups and churches to take responsibility for violence in media:

- Address, as a matter of profound relevance for the long-term reduction of violence, the portrayal and dissemination of violence in media and electronic games. Take remedial action against the delivery and consumption of violent media content in homes and communities.
- Set community-based standards to limit violent content in electronic and broadcast media and to support a workable rating system for games and media programmes. Boycott or ban games with excessive or gratuitous

violence. Promote and encourage non-violent games, films and programmes.

Controlling Supply and Suppliers

The Executive Committee calls on governments and inter-governmental organisations to control the supply of small arms and regulate weapons suppliers:

- Provide for implementation of existing small arms/light weapons controls at the 2006 United Nations Review Conference and, there and in future, add new and binding agreements that prohibit transfer to non-state actors, govern the licensed trade in small arms, limit civilian possession, and control arms already present in communities.
- Negotiate a comprehensive and legally binding treaty to make arms transfers lawful, limited and licensed, to stop transfers to the black market, and to make suppliers partially liable for human rights violations committed with their products. Ensure that any such Arms Trade Treaty sets clear criteria for compliance and verification. Adopt regional codes of conduct for governments regarding the legal trade in arms.
- Adopt and implement the international agreement of 2005 on marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons.
- Prohibit the civilian possession and use of assault rifles and other excessively dangerous gun types and ammunition.
- Given appropriate licensing and storage provisions, define legal possession and use of small arms based on types appropriate for military, police and security personnel and types appropriate for licensed hunters, target shooters and weapons collectors.
- Enlist the small arms industry in aligning the design, manufacture, advertising, sales and brokering of lethal weapons with the usage of those weapons that is allowed under international and national law.
- Levy taxes on small arms sales and exports in order to offset costs incurred by gun violence in society, including the cost of training in the non-violent resolution of conflicts.

Ensuring Accountability

The Executive Committee calls on governments, inter-governmental organisations and businesses, in partnership with civil society to:

- Clarify commitments and maximize transparency in corporate and government arms affairs through the use of legislation, investigation, and lobbying and public disclosure. Define and achieve specific accountabilities throughout the product cycle—in design, manufacture, sales, brokering, trafficking, acquisition, storage, use and demolition.
- Require full disclosure of small arms and light weapons exports by all arms-exporting nations; sanction states that are malfeasant.
- Integrate United Nations standards for law enforcement and security usage of firearms into national legislation; establish civil society mechanisms to evaluate national compliance with those standards.
- Provide political, financial, technical and spiritual support for the implementation of policies recommended here.

The Executive Committee **adopted by consensus** the above Statement on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

11.3 Public Issues at the Assembly

Mr Weiderud then presented the proposals from the CCIA for action on Public Issues at the Assembly. The proposals had been discussed by the Public Issues Sub-Committee, which **recommended** their acceptance.

- CCIA had received and discussed the report on the study process on the Responsibility to Protect – Ethical and Theological Reflections. The Commission recommended that the Executive Committee of the WCC send the report, as amended by the CCIA, to the Assembly and, among the Public Issues, adopt guidelines for the churches for support in their continuing work.
- CCIA had received a report on the work done on UN reform. In light of the urgency to reform and improve the global multilateral system and the strong commitment to multilateralism by the WCC, the Commission recommended

that the Executive Committee of the WCC propose a statement on UN reform to the Assembly.
- CCIA had discussed the content of a possible statement on Latin America. Given the venue of the Assembly and the fact that no recent comprehensive statement on the continent had been made by the WCC governing bodies, the Commission recommended that the Executive Committee of the WCC propose a statement on Latin America to the Assembly.
- CCIA had discussed the possibility of a statement on terrorism by the Assembly. The Commission recommended a study process within the whole house of the WCC on terrorism, to ensure best possible reflection on the issue. By that the WCC could be prepared in case a Public Issues action on terrorism were proposed by the Assembly.
- CCIA recommended that the Executive Committee propose that the Assembly adopt a minute on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Discussion

There was some discussion on a **possible statement on terrorism**. The Officers, at their December 2005 meeting, or the Assembly from the floor, could propose to the Assembly Public Issues Committee that a Statement on Terrorism be prepared. It was necessary to be ready for such an eventuality.

The title **'Responsibility to Protect'** seems incomplete and needs expanding.

Concerning the **Minute on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**, mention should be made of the still continuing situation arising from the past use of the Pacific as a testing ground. Victims still continued to suffer.

Mr Weiderud gave assurances that these concerns would be taken up in the preparations for the Assembly.

The Executive Committee **accepted by consensus** the recommendation from CCIA that the Assembly be invited to receive a Report on the Study Process on the Responsibility to Protect: Ethical and Theological Reflections; to adopt

a Statement on UN Reform and a Statement on Latin America; and to adopt a Minute on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

The Executive Committee also **noted and agreed with** the proposal to be prepared for, but not actively propose, a statement on terrorism at this stage. It further requested that, in light of the planned Consultation on Terrorism in November 2005, the Officers' Meeting in December 2005 make a final assessment on its behalf whether such a statement should be actively proposed.

Dr Best thanked Bishop Koppe, Mr Weiderud and the Public Issues Sub-Committee for their Report.

12. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira, Vice-Moderator, presiding, invited Dr Marion Best to present the Report of the Programme Sub-Committee.

Dr Best presented the Report.

12.1 Assembly matters

The Sub-Committee had looked at the agenda of the Assembly and offered the following comments and recommendations:

- The need to revise the original **timetable** in order to accommodate the participation of Dr. Olara Otunu at the DOV Plenary, was recognized and the Sub-Committee **recommended** the reversing of order for the Unity and DOV Plenaries.
- The new proposal to organize a **Vigil for Peace** on Tuesday 21 February was described more in detail by Rev. Rui Bernhard, and the idea of organizing a symbolic act for peace in the city was welcomed

as a way of involving a larger public from the city and of attracting media attention.

Some suggestions were made to the organizing group in Porto Alegre:

i. to reconsider the use of the term "vigil" and look at names such as "pilgrimage / walk and witness for peace" to describe the event;

ii. to invite Archbishop Desmond Tutu to address the gathering when the symbolic action of transforming arms into peace symbols by an artist will take place;

iii. to include testimonies of children suffering violence from Haiti and from children of South Africa witnessing processes of reconciliation after times of violence;

iv. to focus the messages on peace, through symbols and songs, rather than on protests.

- The sub-committee affirmed the general directions taken for the different building blocks of the Assembly Programme and offered the following comments :

i. On **Worship**: the procedures for the use of the chapel will be explained in the handbook. At the meeting of the General Secretaries of World Communions scheduled in Geneva in October, specific information will be given to them regarding the chapel's use.

ii. The term "**Globalization**", should be highlighted more clearly in the general theological introduction of the Ecumenical Conversations.

iii. Mention of the Assembly Daily Newspaper should be added to the **communication plans** and the sub-committee affirmed plans to produce a DVD/VHS of Assembly highlights.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

12.2 Reports from the Joint Consultative Group WCC-Pentecostals and on the Global Christian Forum

The Sub-Committee heard about the background for both documents and affirmed the importance of bringing the issues of relationship with Pentecostals and of the Global Christian Forum process to the Assembly.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee receive with appreciation the report of the Joint Consultative Group WCC-Pentecostals and forward it to the Assembly Policy Reference Committee. The Policy Reference Committee should be encouraged to place the recommendations made by the JCG within the context of the wider ecumenical relationships.

After discussing with Mr Hubert Van Beek the report on the Global Christian Forum, the Sub-Committee offered several comments for improving the text of the report to be forwarded to the Assembly through the Policy Reference Committee. It suggested in particular that a paragraph be added with a more critical evaluative tone and that the recommendations be more clearly focussed on policy decisions. As with the relations with Pentecostals, the Policy Reference Committee should place the recommendations related to the Forum within the wider context of ecumenical relationships.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

12.3 Statement on Ecclesiology

In the presence of Dr Thomas Best, the Sub-Committee discussed the purpose and status of the proposed text.
It approved two changes:
In section 2.2: to replace the word “gospel” by “good news”
In section 4.1: to insert after the first sentence: “The grace of God is experienced in the victory over sin given by Christ and in the healing and wholeness of the human being”

It further **recommended** that the Statement on Ecclesiology with the above changes be adopted by the Assembly as an invitation to the churches to renew their commitment to the search for unity and to deepen their dialogue on issues that divide them.

An extensive discussion took place on the process for the Assembly to adopt the Statement on Ecclesiology, as the Plenary on Unity should not be the first and only opportunity for the delegates to consider the text. The Sub-Committee **recommended** the following process:

12.3.1 To introduce the document within the Handbook sent to the delegates before the Assembly, explaining clearly why a statement on ecclesiology was needed, what was expected from its adoption by the Assembly and encouraging people to reflect on the issues

12.3.2 To make a reference to the statement during the Plenary "From Harare to Porto Alegre" and to announce that a Forum discussion on the issue will be organized on one of the following days during the time reserved for Mutirão workshops

12.3.3 To nominate a small drafting group mainly drawn from the Policy Reference Committee to follow the process and receive comments

12.3.4 To provide space at the end of the Plenary on Unity for delegates to offer comments on the text

12.3.5 The Policy Reference Committee will then consider the inputs or changes expressed during the week and present a text for decision in its report to the Assembly.

There was some discussion on the appropriate title for the document. Principal points raised were:

The word 'Statement' could give the impression that it was a definitive text on ecclesiology. It was more an invitation to renewed dialogue. The Executive Committee finally **decided** to delete the title 'Statement on Ecclesiology' and replace it with:

Called to be the One Church:
An invitation to the churches
to renew their commitment to the search for unity
and to deepen their dialogue

Some minor drafting changes (included above) were also made to the report originally given by the Sub-Committee.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above two recommendations.

12.4 AGAPE Call to Action

In the presence of Dr Aruna Gnanadason and Dr Rogate Mshana the text was discussed and affirmed.

The sub-committee suggested inserting at the beginning of the fourth line of the prayer: "Father, Son and Holy Spirit let us witness to your love, life and transforming grace".

In addition, three editorial changes were proposed :

- Fourth paragraph of the introduction: to replace the second sentence by
  "since we are called to be one in Christ we are also called to be transformed by God's grace for the sake of all life on earth, overcoming the world's divisions"
- First paragraph on page 2: "Among us there are many who suffer the consequences of economic globalization ; women abused etc.."
- Third paragraph on page 2: " We confess that many of us have failed to take a stand in our faith and act against economic injustice…"

The Sub-Committee **approved** that the document as revised should be used in the Economic Justice Plenary.

12.5 DOV Midterm Invitation

After discussion of the text in the presence of Mr Hans Ulrich Gerber, it was agreed to stress more the importance of interpersonal violence. A replacement for the first paragraph on page 2 was agreed upon, as follows:

> The respect for human dignity, the concern for the wellbeing of the neighbour and the active promotion of the common good are imperatives of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Men and women are created equally in the image of God and justified by grace. Therefore human rights are basic elements of preventing violence at all levels, individual, interpersonal and collective, especially violence against women and children. This must include the effort to build and develop the Rule of Law everywhere. We shall further pursue the understanding of "restorative " or "transformative" justice with the aim of establishing viable and just relationships in communities.

The sub-committee **affirmed** the content of the document with the understanding that the text would be given to the delegates in the context of the DOV Plenary and not submitted for adoption.

12.6 Proposed Ecumenical Alliance for Development (PEAD)

The sub-committee received with great appreciation further explanations from the General Secretary on the development of the PEAD initiative.

The future direction and continuation of the process were clarified, including in particular:

- a letter from the General Secretary to our constituency interpreting what is the process and why it is taking place
- a progress report of the General Secretary to the Officers in December
- the convening by WCC of a consultation to review the draft founding document,

- the presentation of a report to the Executive Committee in May 2006 by the General Secretary, prior to the official launch of PEAD, also scheduled for May 2006.
- the proposed conversations towards coherence in the work and structures of PEAD, ACT International and EAA.

The Sub-Committee was reassured by the fact that for the next period of two to five years, the new body will not be registered as an independent organization.

The Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Executive Committee welcome and affirm the process for the creation of PEAD and that the follow-up be referred to the next Executive Committee.

There was some discussion of the Sub-Committee's recommendation, and it was decided that the Executive Committee should welcome as well as simply affirm the process, as had been initially proposed by the Sub-Committee. It was emphasized that it was the process itself that was being welcomed and affirmed, and not necessarily the eventual end result. It was further emphasized that regions and churches should be included in the process and the WCC staff supported.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above reformulated recommendation.

12.7 Code of Conduct on Diakonia and Development

Rev. Dr André Karamaga explained how the Commission on Diakonia and Solidarity had come to an agreement on six broad principles.

The Sub-Committee **encouraged** the continuation of the work as indicated and **referred** the follow-up to the next Central Committee.

12.8 Commission on Diakonia and Development

The inputs from the Commission were received with appreciation and the Sub-Committee **recommended** that the Commission report be forwarded to the Council's consultative body/bodies dealing with this issue after the Assembly.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

12.9 Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation

The sub-committee expressed appreciation for the evaluation of the work done and **recommended** that the Commission report be forwarded to the Council's consultative body/bodies dealing with this issue after the Assembly.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

12.10 Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

The sub-committee expressed appreciation for the recommendations provided by the CCIA and **recommended** that they be referred to the next full Central Committee meeting in September 2006 for consideration.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above recommendation.

12.11 Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

The sub-committee expressed appreciation for the suggestions offered by the CWME and **recommended** that they be referred to the next Central Committee for consideration.

On the basis of the deliberations of the CWME Commission and the decisions of the 2005 Central Committee, the Sub-Committee **recommended** that the

Executive Committee confirm the participation of the WCC, with a particular role for CWME, in the **international preparation process for the Edinburgh centennial 2010** and affirm the openness of CWME to cooperate with other bodies in this preparatory process.

The Committee had also discussed with Rev. Dr Carlos Ham the major highlights of the Athens Conference. It received with appreciation the encouraging outcomes and affirmed the importance of bringing them to the WCC Assembly.

The Executive Committee **agreed by consensus** to accept the above two recommendations.

12.12 Critical Moment Conference on Inter-Religious Dialogue

The sub-committee stressed the importance of the follow-up of this event. It welcomed the short term actions undertaken and **affirmed** the need for long term strategic planning on the future of the Inter-Religious work in the WCC, with particular attention to the WCC's role in assisting the churches to deal with these issues and to learning from them.

12.13 Ecumenical News International (ENI)

The sub-committee **affirmed the recommendations** presented in the ENI Progress Report it had received:
- to welcome recent developments in ENI towards more effective news production and financial sustainability
- to maintain the current financial commitment in 2006
- to maintain the concern about the sustainability of the WCC's financial commitment and recommend that it be reviewed within the context of an overall WCC communication strategy at the May 2006 Executive Committee meeting.

Dean Gadegaard stated that he had a full business plan for ENI and a summary available for examination by any member of the Executive

Committee. The deficit was at present reducing and there was a balanced budget for 2006.

The Executive Committee noted the report and **agreed by consensus** to the recommendation for a review as described above at its meeting in May 2006.

Mrs Justice Adinyira, on the conclusion of the report, thanked the sub-committee and the staff who had prepared it.

13. EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

The Moderator invited comments, not only on the present meeting, but on the committee's whole period of service.

Many members expressed their appreciation of the Moderator and the Vice-Moderators.

Dr Best urged that the next Executive Committee, of which two thirds of the members would be new, not to rush straight into business but to spend time in community building.

Bishop Koppe was grateful for his experience with the Special Commission. He stressed the need for better communication between the ecumenical bodies sharing the same building in Geneva.

Rev. Iteffa Gobena stressed the need for joint assemblies of the world ecumenical bodies. He appreciated the smooth transition from the retiring General Secretary to his successor.

The General Secretary stated that there had been discussions about increased cooperation between the WCC and the Christian World Communions, and that discussions were continuing.

Fr Kishkovsky added his remarks of appreciation for the work of the Special Commission. He hoped that its momentum would be maintained. It had benefited not only the Orthodox churches but all member churches.

Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza spoke appreciatively of how committee members had supported one another at the time of the terrorist attacks on the USA on 11 September 2001. Her most joyful experience had been the decision by the Central Committee to hold the coming Assembly in Porto Alegre.

Several members spoke appreciatively of the meetings of the Executive Committee held outside Switzerland, in Denmark and Korea. They had made possible interaction with the local churches, and consideration should be given to repeating such visits elsewhere.

The Moderator thanked members for their comments.

14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The General Secretary gave details of the next meeting, only for those in Porto Alegre for the Assembly the following day:

Monday 13 February 2006 (arrivals Sunday 12 February)

15. CLOSING ACTIONS

The Moderator expressed his thanks to the Officers and members of the Executive Committee for their friendship and fellowship during the past seven years. He expressed the thanks of the committee to the staff assisting in arrangements for the meeting, and, in particular, their deep appreciation to the General Secretary.

The General Secretary thanked the members for their accompaniment, especially to himself as the new General Secretary. He singled out the Moderator for particular appreciation for his past 14 years in office. His commitment to the ecumenical movement was impressive. He had a strong grasp of all issues, theological depth and gave wise counsels, for which he praised God.

The Moderator closed the meeting of the Executive Committee at 12.30pm on 16 September 2005.

APPENDIX I

List of Participants

Officers:	H.H. Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia	(Moderator)
	Mrs Justice Sophia Adinyira	(Vice-Moderator)
	Dr Marion Best	(Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia	(General Secretary)
Members:	Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza	
	Ms Donnalie E.C. Edwards-Cabey	
	Dean Anders Gadegaard	
	H.E. Metr. Dr Gennadios of Sassima	
	Rev. Iteffa Gobena	
	Ms Carmencita Karagdag	
	H.G. Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim	
	Rev. Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick	
	Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky	
	Bishop Dr. Rolf Koppe	
	Prof. Dr Samuel Lee	
	Rev. Dr Maake S.J. Masango	
	H.G. Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste	
	Ms Idah Njobvu	
	Rt. Rev. Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus	
	Bishop McKinley Young	
Ex officio:	Fr Dr K.M. George	
	Rev. Norman Shanks	
Apologies:	Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev	
	Ms Jana Krajciriková	
	Rev. Septemmy E. Lakawa	
	Rev. Dr Ilaitia Sevati Tuwere	
Substitutes:	Mr John Doom	
	Fr Mikhail Gundyaev	

Consultant:	Rev. Rui Bernhard
Guests: (part-time)	Rev. Milton Mejia, Presbyterian Church of Colombia Obispo Juan Antonio Vera Méndez, Methodist Church of Puerto Rico Dr Victor R. Ortiz, Methodist Church of Puerto Rico
Staff:	Ms Geneviève Jacques Mr Georges Lemopoulos Dr William Temu Rev. Sabine Udodesku
Minute-Writer:	Rev. Tony Coates
Administration:	Ms Ursula Zierl

APPENDIX II

Membership of Sub-Committees

Programme

Dr Marion S. Best (Moderator)
Rev. Rui Bernhard
Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza
Mr John Doom
Metr. Dr Gennadios of Sassima
Fr Dr K.M. George
Rev. Iteffa Gobena
Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim
Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky
(Ms Jana Krajciriková)
(Rev. Septemmy E. Lakawa)
Rev. Dr Maake J. Masango
Rev. Norman Shanks

Staffing and Nominations

Justice Sophia O.A. Adinyira (Moderator)
Fr Mikhail Gundyaev
Ms Donnalie Edwards-Cabey
Rev. Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick
Prof. Dr Samuel Lee
Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste
Rt. Rev. Dr Zacharias Mar Theophilus

Finance

Dean Anders Gadegaard (Moderator)
Ms Carmencita Karagdag
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
Ms Idah Njobvu
Bishop McKinley Young

Public Issues

Ms Donnalie Edwards-Cabey
Rev. Inamar Correa de Souza
Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim
Rev. Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste
Ms Idah Njobvu

APPENDIX III

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the interests of clarity, and in particular since the matter is of importance to staff, the Officers, acting for the Executive Committee, decided to include this Addendum in the published report of Executive Committee, 13-16 September 2005.

Meeting with the Officers of the Pension Fund Board

Following the Finance Sub-committee's Report, the fact that one point of agreement with the Officers of the Pension Fund Board might be interpreted as an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding of March 19, 2003 was raised by the auditors, and brought to the attention of the Moderator of the Finance Sub-committee.

Since it has not been the intention of the Council to change the Memorandum of Understanding, the following addendum is made, restating the Council's position on the fourth point of agreement with the Officers of Pension Fund Board, as reported in point 6 of the Report of the Finance sub-committee to the Executive Committee. The Officers of the Pension Fund Board will be duly informed of the Addendum.

> The Council is unable to concur with the request for consideration of a voluntary corrective contribution to the Pension Fund, in the light of the Memorandum of Understanding of March 19, 2003. The Council reaffirms its commitment to the Pension Fund, limited to a total annual contribution fixed at a level of 14% of the annual assured salaries.

With regard to its responsibility towards the staff, should reduction in staff prove necessary, consideration will be given at such a time by the Council to benefits payable at termination of contract.

Appendix IV

Budget 2006

(in CHF millions)	Framework 2006 (CCom 2/05)	Draft Budget 2006	*Budget 2005*
Funds & Reserves brought forward	**38.95**	**38.83**	***41.59***
Income			
Contributions	34.06	34.83	*38.99*
Other Income	6.76	7.29	*7.00*
Total Income	**40.82**	**42.12**	***45.99***
Expenditure			
Programme & other costs & transfers	26.26	28.24	*29.81*
Salaries	17.79	18.05	*18.82*
Total Expenditure	**44.05**	**46.29**	***48.63***
Net Income / Expenditure	**(3.23)**	**(4.17)**	***(2.64)***
Increase/(Dec) Unrestricted & Designated Funds	1.67	0.78	*1.64*
Decrease Restricted Funds	(4.90)	(4.95)	*(4.28)*
	(3.23)	**(4.17)**	***(2.64)***
Funds & Reserves carried forward	**35.72**	**34.66**	***38.95***